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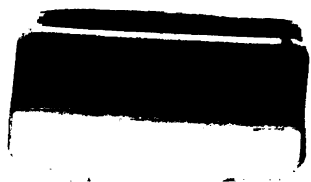
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**HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY**  
**OF**  
**THE ART OR MISTERY**  
**OF**  
**FELTMAKERS OF LONDON**

**BY**  
**J. H. HAWKINS,**  
*Past Master.*



**ILLUSTRATED BY**  
**J. WM. STEVENS,**  
*Past Master.*

**EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY**  
**ALFRED PEACHEY,**  
*Past Master and Clerk.*

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## DEDICATION

By consent of the Master, Wardens, and Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Feltnmakers this Book is dedicated by the joint Authors to their friend Alderman and Sheriff Sir Louis Arthur Newton, who was elected on June 27th, 1916, as first on the Poll of four Candidates for the Office of Sheriff of our Ancient City of London, the votes recorded being :

Major L. A. Newton, C.C.	1160	} elected.
Mr. G. Haysom .. ..	665	
Mr. H. F. Hepburn ..	655	
Lt.-Col. W. R. Smith ..	575	

Major Newton was afterwards (on 23rd November, 1916) elected Alderman of Cordwainer Ward and received the honour of Knighthood on 13th June, 1917. So far as can be discovered only one other member of the Worshipful Company of Feltnmakers has ever filled the Office of Sheriff ; this was Sir Thomas White, who was elected Alderman of Portsoken Ward, 1871, served the Office of Sheriff 1872/3, and Lord Mayor 1876/7, Knighted August 4th, 1873, and died March 8th, 1883, but prior to being Lord Mayor transferred to the Vintners Company.

The Authors of this little History are assured that every member of the Company will heartily approve of the Dedication of the Book to their fellow Liveryman, who was introduced to the Company by the compiler of the work.

The Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants are confident that the entire Livery of the Company will join them in the Congratulations to

## DEDICATION

Alderman and Sheriff Sir Louis A. Newton, wish him every success in his career as a member of the Corporation of the Ancient City of London and that he will by the Divine blessing be spared to complete his Office in health and strength, that he may receive further honours from his Sovereign, congratulations from the Livery of London, and eventually attain the highest dignity the Livery can confer of being elected and successfully serving the Office of Lord Mayor.

JAS. HARFORD HAWKINS, Past Master.

J. WILLIAM STEVENS, Past Master.

ALFRED PEACHEY, Past Master and Clerk.

## PREFACE

THE History of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers has never yet been written. At a Court Meeting held in October, 1914, Mr. Renter Warden F. J. Asbury proposed that a book should be compiled to that end, and should record among other things the possessions of the Company and the value and objects of its Charities. This proposition was favourably considered and the Court appointed Past Masters Major J. H. Hawkins, V.D., J. Wm. Stevens and the Clerk as a Committee to prepare the said Work. The Committee met and decided that Major Hawkins should compile the History, which should be added to by Past Master J. W. Stevens, who agreed to prepare the necessary illustrations, drawings, plans and particulars of the Company's property. Subsequently the Clerk, Mr. Alfred Peachey, would peruse and revise where necessary. The task has proved interesting and pleasant, although at times somewhat wearisome, the work necessitating many days, in fact weeks, of studying the records in the old Minute Books of the Company which are now preserved at Guildhall. One member of the Committee (the compiler) has been engaged for some months in visiting the Guildhall Library to extract from the Minutes the History of the Company. While the book which follows cannot be described as the result of "scissors and paste," yet it is principally copied from the records of the Company which are preserved at Guildhall and are in very good condition.

## PREFACE

Some of the Minutes are missing, some perhaps were destroyed in the Great Fire of London, and some that were recorded subsequently probably were lost in other fires or became mislaid at various removals of offices or at changes of Clerks and Beadles. The absence of these records is much to be deplored, and shows the advantages that would have accrued had our ancient predecessors obtained a Hall of their own, where a strong room could have been built in which to preserve the Archives of the Company. This History therefore lacks a perfectly historical continuity. The old Minute Books were beautifully and most accurately kept, and are now carefully preserved. The writer has to express his gratitude to the Chief Librarian at Guildhall, Mr. Kettle, the Assistant Librarian, Mr. Welch, Jun., and the attendants generally for their uniform courtesy, kindness and attention at all times of his numerous and prolonged visits to make the necessary extracts.

While the book has had much attention bestowed on its production it is not presented as a literary work, and the members of the Company or any other person who may do the Committee the favour of reading it are entreated to be most considerate in their criticisms of those parts of the work which appear to savour of originality, remembering the words of that immortal poet, Alexander Pope:

" 'Tis hard to say if greater want of skill  
Appear in writing or in judging ill ;  
But, of the two less dangerous is the offence  
To tire our patience than mislead our sense.  
Some few in that, but numbers err in this,  
Ten censure wrong for one who writes amiss ;  
Both must alike from Heaven derive their light,

## PREFACE

Those born to judge as well as those to write ;  
Let such teach others who themselves excel  
And censure freely who have written well.  
A perfect judge will read each work of wit  
With the same spirit that its author writ :  
Whoever thinks a faultless piece to see,  
Thinks what ne'er was, nor is, nor e'er shall be.  
In every work regard the writer's end,  
Since none can compass more than they intend.  
And if the means be just, the conduct true,  
Applause, in spite of trivial faults is due."

With these expressions this Preface is finished  
and the succeeding pages of the Book committed  
to the indulgent reader.

J. H. H.

INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR THE  
APPRENTICES  
OF THE  
COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS  
LONDON

YOU shall constantly and devoutly every Day Morning and Evening on your knees, serve God, attending the Public Service of the Church, and hearing the Word preached, and endeavour the right practice thereof in your Life and Conversation. You shall be diligent and faithful in your Master's Service, during the time of your apprenticeship and deal truly in what you shall be trusted. You shall often read over the Covenants of your Indenture, together with these Instructions, and endeavour to perform the same to the utmost of your power. You shall avoid all evil Company and all Occasions which may tend to draw you to the same ; and make speedy return, when you shall be sent on your Master or Mistress's errands. You shall avoid Idleness, and be ever employed in God's Service, or about your Master's business. You shall be of fair, gentle, and lowly speech and behaviour to all Men, and especially to your Governors ; and avoid all Manner of Gaming, Cursing, Swearing and Drunkenness ; And according to your Carriage so you may expect good or evil from God and your friends.

---

The above is a true copy of the Instructions given to all apprentices of the Company from 1700 to within the latter portion of the 19th Century.

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

THE Livery Companies of the City of London are bodies of Citizens attached to the various Guilds of the Ancient City, either by Servitude (*i.e.* originally, but now only nominally, serving an apprenticeship of seven years to a Liveryman and at the expiration of the period taking up the Livery), by Patrimony, or by Purchase. In each case the Freedom of the City through the said Company is conferred, usually after an obligation has been administered in the presence of the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants, then certified by the Chamberlain of the City, subsequently the Freeman is admitted to the Livery, after having taken an obligation of faithful adhesion to the Customs and Practices of the said Livery, which obligation is also taken in the presence of the aforesaid officials of the Company. After election by that body to the honourable position of a Liveryman, this admission has afterwards to be confirmed by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen at a regular meeting of the Court of Aldermen. The status of a Liveryman in the City is of the same character irrespective of the Company to which he belongs, the privileges generally are a vote at each election for a Member of Parliament for the said City of London, and the right of attending all meetings of the Liverymen in Guildhall, termed Common Hall; the principal of these meetings being Midsummer Day, for the election of Sheriffs, and Michaelmas Day for the election of Lord Mayor. The other



TO THE  
ALMHOUSE  
WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

officials of the Corporation whose election is in the hands of the Liverymen are, Chamberlain, Auditors, Bridge Masters, and Ale Conners. The Guildhall is the property of the Liverymen of the City of London, and their Guardian, who is nominally the custodian of the Guildhall, is the Lord Mayor for the time being.

There are 77 of these Companies, with an aggregate membership of about 7,500, the premier Company is the Mercers, whose Master takes precedence of the Masters of all the other Companies, the twelve principal Companies are the Mercers, Grocers, Drapers, Fishmongers, Goldsmiths, Skinners, Merchant Taylors, Haberdashers, Salters, Ironmongers, Vintners and Clothworkers; the remaining Companies are recorded in the various histories of the City of London and an entire list is published annually in the City of London Directory, London Directory, Whittaker's Almanack, and a few other similar publications. The Feltmakers' Company is the sixtieth on the list. In the seventies of the last century, the writer distinctly remembers the agitation that was worked up among a peculiar class of people against what they termed the iniquities of the Livery Companies; these iniquities consisted in the main of giving large sums annually in Charity, maintaining Almshouses for decayed members of the Companies, supporting Schools for the education of the young, etc., in distributing all these gifts and generally managing their own affairs. The Companies which could afford it from their own private income as a Company, liberally remunerated their Clerk and staff, the Court of Assistants, and occasionally entertained the Livery to very enjoyable dinners. To these dinners public agitators were at last very gener-

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

ously invited, the invitations were accepted with avidity, and as a result the agitation appeared gradually to subside; but in order to satisfy the clamour of a noisy few who possibly did not taste of the Turtle and other luxuries, the Government of the time in the year 1880 appointed a Royal Commission to enquire into the working of the City Livery Companies. The then Earl of Derby was appointed Chairman.

This Commission worked with such assiduity and celerity that in 1884, a short period of four years, it actually issued a report consisting of five volumes. This Commission discovered many marvellous things, principal among which was the rateable value of the Halls possessed by some of the Companies, which at that time was about £55,000, and that of the Schools and Almshouses £18,000; with such determination was the enquiry of this Commission prosecuted that it discovered the value of furniture and plate possessed by the Livery Companies to be upwards of £320,000, and with masterly skill and ability did this said Commission discover that some of the Companies had Clerical Livings in their gift for the "cure of souls," the annual income of which at that time was round about the sum of £12,000 per annum. The Commission finished, and reported like Royal Commissions usually do, and the Livery Companies of London continue to do their good and useful work, and periodically to dine together. In some cases the Companies or Guilds identify themselves with the trade which gives a clue to their designation, such as the Plumbers, who have instituted scientific examinations for working artizans of that trade, and it is common knowledge now with what perfection "plumbers' joints

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

are wiped," and how promptly all burst pipes are repaired when a rapid thaw follows a severe frost.

The designation of the Company does not always give a clue to the trade which originated the Guild or Company, as instance the Loriners, supposed to be bridle, bit and spur makers; the Fletchers again, supposed to be arrow finishers. Thus a brief reference to the Guilds of London or its famous Livery Companies, which are at once the glory of our City and the envy of all English, Scotch, Irish, or Welsh Corporations, serves to introduce to the reader of these pages the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers of London. In the early portion of the 17th Century a number of the Liverymen of the Haberdashers Company who were carrying on the business of Felt Makers, which in those days was principally making the body or foundation upon which the beaver fur was worked or "roughed," as the technical phrase was then used, and is now in fact, although no beaver hats are made to-day as they were in those days; these men who were Felt Makers, thinking that perhaps much advantage would accrue if they were constituted a separate body or Company, set on foot a movement for a Royal Charter to be granted for the formation of a Feltmakers Company, which in the end was successful. A Charter was granted, with which we shall deal later.

As the promoters of this Company were an exclusive class of men making felt, perhaps to some, if any there be, who peruse these lines and who are not acquainted with the production of felt and the article mostly formed by that material, hats, a short description of felt, followed by a longer one of hats, may be forgiven, although the writer hopes it may be interesting.

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

### FELT

This is a fabric from the matting and intimate adhesion of fibrous materials among themselves, and is not produced by weaving or spinning like an ordinary cloth. Ordinary textile fibres possess sufficient adhesive tendency to enable them to be handled for spinning, but it is only in certain animal fibres that the peculiarity is so marked as to fit them for felting. The property results chiefly from the serrated or jagged structure of wool and hair, and efficient felting is also promoted by the crimped or wavy form which some fibres naturally assume. These properties are best developed in short carding wool of such sheep as the Merino Saxony breeds, long "combing" wools possessing them in a less degree. Unwashed wool, being coated with the natural grease, does not felt. The hair of the rabbit, hare, coypu, vicuna, musquash, etc., is employed for making felt of various kinds and for different purposes. Felt has been made and used from the most remote antiquity, and indeed, considering the simplicity of the material and the readiness with which wool "felts," there is no doubt that it was known long before woven fabrics. From time immemorial it has been employed for clothing and tent covers by the tribes of Central Asia, and at the present day is in extensive use among the Circassian, Armenian and Tartar tribes. Felt is mentioned by Pliny and by Xenophon; Marco Polo describes its manufacture and applications in Asia. Felting as a work results from the combination of pressure and moisture accelerated by heat. Broad cloth and "fulled" woollen textures are partially felted, the "fulling"

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

process having for its object a felting of the previously woven material; this is amply illustrated by the shrinking of woollen garments after washing with which everybody is familiar; this results from a "felting" by which the fibres draw closer together, the cloth gaining in thickness and solidity what it loses in superficial extent. The applications of felt are numerous, a certain range of qualities being used for clothing, domestic, and upholstery purposes, while other and rougher felts are employed on mechanical appliances. Its manufactures in the shape or form of carpets, druggets, table covers, and articles of clothing are important and extensive. The felt for these purposes is chiefly made from wool, which after washing is first carded out into exceedingly fine and uniform gossamer-like laps. These laps, of the length and breadth to be made, are superimposed on each other in numbers corresponding to the thickness desired in the finished article. The outer covering or "nap" is usually of finer texture than the body, and the mass when ready for felting has the appearance of a huge sheet of cotton wadding. In this state the compound lap is passed between a series of opposite pressing rollers partly immersed in water, some of which are solid and heavy and others hollow and heated internally by steam. In its progress the lap is not only squeezed between the rollers, but, an oscillating motion being given to the upper series, it is at the same time submitted to a rubbing action, the result being that it issues a dense compact sheet of felt of uniform thickness. Felt so made is subsequently dyed, printed, and otherwise finished by the ordinary processes applicable to woven tissues. A patent was some years ago secured for a carpet made of uniform

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

strips of felt set on edge and tightly laced through the centre. Such a carpet is the same on both sides, and for its great durability, thickness, softness, and elasticity are claimed. Among the leading mechanical applications of felt may be mentioned the covering of steam boilers and cylinders, the lining of damp walls, steam packing, non-conductors for kilns and refrigerators, filters, polishing wheels, lining between the planking and metal sheathing of ships, printers' blankets, and the covering of roofs. In the coarser qualities of felt cow-hair is a leading ingredient, and waterproof felting for roofs, etc., is impregnated with artificial asphalt and similar substances. This manufacture was originally introduced by Messrs. Croggon & Co., of London, under a patent of Dr. Ritchie, of Belfast; but the "roofing felt" now made is a misnomer, seeing that it is a bituminous compound simply held together by waste flax and other vegetable fibres.

Until recent times hats were principally made by the process of felting, and as tradition ascribed the discovery of that very ancient operation to St. Clement, he was assumed to be the patron saint of the craft of hat makers, and the annual festival of the trade used to be held on St. Clement's Day, November 23rd. The trade so continued until the early Victorian days, when owing to the introduction of the silk hat it became divided into two classes, viz., the Feltmakers and the Silk Hat Makers. This latter branch made rapid strides during the latter part of the 19th Century, beginning with a peculiar kind of silk plush made in England and termed "tissue," which was ultimately superseded by a very beautiful French plush, manufactured in the Rhine provinces of France, which in 1871 became

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

part of that empire which at the time of writing this little work is at war, for some inscrutable reason, with almost the rest of the world, but when the war finishes it is to be hoped the said provinces will once more be French.

The silk hat trade has seriously languished during the past twenty years. The reason is unaccountable, because the silk hat became a badge of respectability; the best-dressed men always wore them, and many continue so to do. The hats could be made light in weight, easy fitting and fairly cheap; but prejudice arose against them, the workmen indulged too freely in strikes, and a variety of circumstances arose that for a time has spoiled the popularity of the silk hat, and if it will ever be restored is problematical.

The felt hat of course being the original article now is worn by the multitude, and of felt hat makers there are a few in London, Leicester, Atherstone, Bristol and Carlisle, but the majority are to be found in Stockport, Denton, Gorton, Hyde (Cheshire), and the suburbs of Manchester.

As now made felt hats are of three different kinds, plain soft, plain hard, and napped or "roughed" felts. There is a great range in the quality of felt hats, the finer and more expensive quality being made entirely of fur; for cheaper qualities a mixture of fur and Saxony wool is used, for the commonest class wool alone is employed. The processes and apparatus necessary for the making of hats of fur differ from those required in the case of woollen bodies; and in large manufactories machinery is now used for operations which fifty years ago were entirely manual. In smaller factories, and for special objects, the old hand processes may still be in

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

operation. A brief outline of the operations by which the old beaver hat was, and to some extent yet is, made will give an idea of the manual processes in making a fur-napped hat, and the apparatus and mechanical processes in making ordinary hard and soft felt hats will be mentioned afterwards.

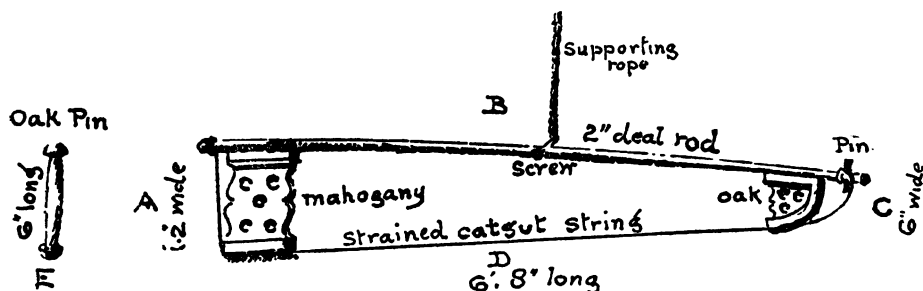
Hatters' fur consists principally of the hair of rabbits (technically called coneys) and hares, with some proportion of neutria, musquash and beaver's hair, and generally any parings and cuttings from furriers are also used. Furs intended for felting are deprived of the long coarse hairs by women called pullers, after which they are treated with a solution of nitrate of mercury, an operation called carroting or secretage, whereby the felting properties of the fur are considerably increased. The fur is then cut by machine (in olden times this was regularly done by manual labour) from the skin, and in that state delivered to the hat maker. Rabbit's fur for hat making is now largely imported from Australia, and is of course collected in the United Kingdom and Northern Europe, while a considerable trade in rabbit fur is maintained between the United States and Great Britain.

The old process of making a beaver hat is as follows. The materials of a proper beaver consist ✓  
for the body rabbit fur, for the nap beaver fur, ✓  
although sometimes the beaver fur was mixed ✓  
with or supplanted by a commoner fur; this was  
a century or two ago a common practice with  
the men who took fur from the master hatter,  
to produce bodies and sometimes napped goods,  
to their homes to make. This phase of the  
ancient felt maker will be dealt with when  
we come to the origin of the Charities now



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administered by the present Company or Livery of Feltmakers. A perfect beaver hat may be regarded as the highest achievement of the hatter. In preparing the fur plate, the hatter weighs out a sufficient quantity of rabbit fur for a single hat, which is spread out and combined by the operation of bowing.



The bow or stang as shown in this sketch and marked A B C is about six feet long, and resembles a violin bow but not of such slender proportions. It has only one string or cord of catgut, D, which the workman vibrates by means of the wooden pin, E, which has a half-knob at each end. Holding the bow in his left hand, and the pin in his right, he causes the vibrating string to come in contact with the heap of tangled fur, which covers a space not greater than that of the hand. At each vibration some of the filaments start up to the height of a few inches and fall away from the mass, a little to the right of the bow, their flight being restrained by a concave frame of wickerwork called the basket. One-half of the material is first operated on, and by bowing and gathering, or a patting use of the basket, the stuff is loosely matted into a triangular figure called a bat. In this formation care is taken to work a greater proportion of

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the fur down towards what is intended for the brim, which being effected greater density is induced by gentle pressure with the basket. It is then covered with a damp linen cloth, upon which is laid a hardening skin, a sort of dry half-tanned piece of horsehide. In olden times the room in which the foregoing work was performed was termed a bowing garret, and when a meeting of the workmen was summoned it was invariably held in this room and was termed a "garret," and an assembly of workmen held in any hat factory is described by its members as a "garret" to the present day. After being placed under the hardening skin the workman presses or bakes it until the stuff adheres closely to the damp cloth, in which it is then doubled up, freely pressed with the hand and laid aside. By this process, called basoning, the bat has become compactly felted and thinned towards the sides and point. The other half of the fur is then subjected to precisely the same processes, after which a cone-shaped slip of stiff paper is laid on its surface and the sides of the bat are folded over its edges to its form and size. It is then laid paper side downward on the first bat, which is now placed on a hurdle, and its edges transversely doubled over the introverted sidelays of the second bat, thus giving equal thickness to the whole body. In this condition it is reintroduced between folds of damp linen cloth and again hardened, so as to unite the two halves, the knitting together of which is quickly effected. The paper is now withdrawn and the body in the form of a large cone is removed to the planking or battery room.

The battery consists of an open iron boiler or kettle, filled with scalding hot water, with shelves

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made partly of lead and partly mahogany sloping down to the water. Here the body is first dipped into the hot water, then withdrawn to the plank to partly cool and drain, when it is unfolded, rolled gently with a pin, tapering towards each end, turned and worked in every direction, to toughen and shrink it and at the same time to prevent adhesion to its sides. Stopping or thickening the thin spots, which now appear on looking through the body, is carefully performed by dabbing on additional stuff in successive supplies from the hot liquor with a brush frequently dipped into the kettle until the body be sufficiently shrunk (about one-half) and thoroughly equalized. When quite dried, stiffening is performed with a brush dipped into a thin solution called "proofing" made of shellac and rubbed into the body, the surface intended for the inside having much more laid on it than that intended for the outer part, while the portion intended for the brim (or breeds as it is sometimes described) is made to absorb a greater quantity of proofing than the other part. On being again dried the body is ready to be covered with a nap of beaver hair. For this, in inferior qualities of hats, the hair of the otter, neutria, or other fine fur is sometimes substituted. The requisite quantity of one or other of these is taken and mixed with a proportion of cotton, and the whole is bowed up into a thin uniform nap. The cotton merely serves to give sufficient body to the material to enable the workman to handle the nap. The body of the hat being damped, the workman spreads over it a covering of this nap, and by moistening and gentle patting with a brush, the cut ends of the hair penetrate and fix themselves in the felt body. The hat is now

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put into a coarse hair cloth, dipped and rolled in the hot liquor, until the fur is quite worked in, the cotton being left on the surface loose and ready for removal ; the workman engaged on this latter work is termed a "rougher." The blocking, dyeing, and finishing processes in the case of beaver hats are similar to those employed for ordinary felts, except that greater care and dexterity are required on the part of the workmen, and further that the coarse hairs or kemps which may be in the fur are cut off by shaving the surface ; then the nap has to be turned in one direction, on the sides of the crown, and turned on the tip, by much dexterity on the part of the finisher, by repeated wetting, ironings, and brushings. A hat so made and finished is very durable, light, cool, and easy fitting to the head, and but for fashion is preferable to the silk hat which superseded it ; although the great improvements effected in the production of the latter has obviated the difficulties of wear, and rendered it far superior in every respect than the low round crowns and soft head-gear now so prevalent in all classes of society. The workman who curls and shapes the brims of hardened beavers, felts, and silks is termed the shaper, or in some factories the tipper off, thus the branches of the workmen are to-day, body makers, finishers, and shapers, or as they are described facetiously by each other, grave-diggers, curates, and bishops. They have curious customs among themselves, and a brief description of those customs by the writer, who for a period of his early life worked with and among them at "the plank," may be somewhat interesting.

To begin with, "journeymen hatters" were and to this day by some are still termed

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"gentlemen journeymen hatters." The origin of this term is by tradition ascribed to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, who on her memorable journey to Tilbury (shortly before the destruction of the Spanish Armada by the English), passing down Holborn Hill, saw in the valley a great congregation of well-dressed men wearing polished beaver hats; these were the hatters from the neighbouring district of Blackfriars and Southwark, which was then as it is even to-day the centre of the hatting industry of London. It is traditionally recorded that Her Majesty was so struck with their lusty demonstration of loyalty, as well as their superior appearance, that she inquired who "those gentlemen were?" and on being told they were the journeymen hatters from Southwerke, replied, "Then such journeymen must be gentlemen," since which time, so custom dictates, they have been and still are termed "gentlemen." If a message is sent from them by the constable of their shop to the employer or his foreman, the expression used is always, "The gentlemen desire me to say," etc.; or if the "johnny boy" employed by the men is sent for any purpose, he always says, "The gentlemen told me to say," etc. It is hot and fatiguing work and so the operative requires frequent refreshers; a drink no matter what its kind, but mostly beer, is termed "a johnny," therefore the boy employed by the men is termed the "johnny boy" and is not an employee of the master hat manufacturer. This boy is paid a small sum each week by each man in the shop, and this money is collected after paytime by the "constable"; this office is held for one week by each man working in the "shop," and he is for the time being the mouthpiece of the men

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with whom he works and is chairman of the "garret" or meeting, unless in a large factory the three branches, bodymakers, finishers and shapers are sufficiently numerous to work in separate departments or shops. In such cases each shop has its own constable, and a general garret being called would be held in the largest of these shops and a chairman elected, probably one of the three constables. A deputation to the employer from a "garret" of this kind consists of three men, and they are appointed by casting lots. That is, the chairman writes three numbers on what is known as a finishing patch, the side on which he has written the numbers is then hidden and every man selects a number to his choice; when all have selected a number the remaining number has to be the chairman's lot and may or may not be one of the "private numbers," as they are termed; the patch is then disclosed to the "garret" and those who have called the numbers that are written consist of the deputation. This method of casting lots is termed by the gentlemen "stokeing" for the jobs, and as the custom is known to the employer by constant usage, if not by previous personal experience, he is unable to blame the deputation personally, either individually or collectively. But these practices are disappearing gradually, "garrets" not now taking place in what is termed the employer's time; although the workmen are always paid "piecework," not by time, yet the kilns are kept going between certain hours, and so a waste of fuel is avoided by garreting after hours and probably on some other premises.

The workmen may not ask for employment themselves, but have to be "asked for," as it

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is termed, by one of the employees, who is described as "short turn." The man seeking work carries an "out-of-work ticket" from his union, this he sends into the factory, the man whose "short turn" it is comes out to the applicant, discovers which branch he desires work in, the "short turn" then goes to the foreman of the department and says, "Will you shop a man, sir?" If there is a plank vacant and work requiring to be done, a few questions from the foreman answered by the "short turn," and then if the reply is "Yes" the "short turn" fetches the man in, escorts him to the shop in which he has to work, and on entering says, "A new shopmate, gentlemen." After a conversation with the constable or any of the men he knows, he fetches his tools and commences work. If his first "pad" of work "serves turn," that is, passes the scrutiny of the foreman, he receives a second pad of work. He is then recognized by the rest as having "served turn," is then a member of the shop, and has to pay his footing, which is "sixteen pence," the price of a gallon of fourpenny beer. As in most cases he has not the money, or if he has it is not discreet to show it, he "gives his word," the constable orders the beer and every man in the shop has to give his word for what is known as "joinings," that is twopence each, and this is collected by the constable after pay-time on Friday or Saturday. A similar proceeding is adopted when a man is discharged from a shop, except that he does not pay anything; everyone else pays or gives their word to pay twopence, and so he is treated off. Again an old custom that is dying out to the advantage of many, and that is "corking." If one journeyman in any way offends against another by making

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a doubtful statement he may be "corked" to prove his words, or for taking a wrong iron off the kiln, or in fact for many trivial acts. The ceremony in brief is I "cork" you to prove your words, or for doing so-and-so, and insist upon it; then if the man knows he is wrong he "gives his word for a gallon," the joining goes on again, and sometimes results in the shop going what is commonly termed on the "fly," and good-bye to any more work that day. If the man "weighing out the corker," as it is termed, prefers to be verbose, he says to the man he is corking, "Is your name X Y Z?" mentioning his name of course; then no matter what answer he receives he continues, "I shall insist upon you apologizing for so-and-so or proving so-and-so and paying or giving your word to pay for a gallon, before you hat, cap, wig, or waistcoat, roll up or roll down, or do any good for yourself, wife, or family." That is termed weighing out the corker. If the man so corked thinks he is not an offending party, then he insists that the man corking him is in error, and so in hatting parlance gives him the "wrong 'un"; this means a garret of the whole of the workmen in the department, and whoever is proved to be wrong has to pay four shillings, being the price of three gallons of four-penny beer. The loser may appeal to a garret of all the hands of each of the branches in the factory, and then the loser has a court of final appeal, which is a "dozening" and means one man being called from each of the twelve nearest factories to that wherein the alleged offence occurred. The meeting takes place at some licensed premises, and means more beer or its equivalent, and the loser pays one guinea. These practices are, however, gradually disappearing from the trade.



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We will leave now the peculiar customs among journeymen hatters and return to the practical portion of our work, the Feltmakers. The art or mistery of feltmaking continued to be manual until about the middle of the 19th Century, when machines for feltmaking were devised in America and subsequently introduced into England, and now in nearly all large establishments the machinery, with of course modern improvements, is in use, the system of preparing the fur remaining practically the same to-day as it was in the centuries that have passed. Whether made by hand or by machine, by thoroughly felting, the hat bodies of any kind have been reduced to dense leathery cones about one-half the size of the original bat; they are dried, and if hard felts are to be made, the bodies at this stage are hardened or stiffened with a solution of shellac called proofing. Then follows the operation of blocking, in which the felt for the first time assumes approximately the form it is ultimately to possess. For this purpose the conical body is softened in steam and forcibly drawn over a hat-shaped wooden block. A string tightened by a special loop is run round where the band is to be, and the brim then flattened out from the string, or the hat is stamped from the soft hood by hydraulic or steam pressure between a block and pan and flat plates at the outside round the crown. The dyeing process then takes place, except with the commoner class, which are dyed before blocking. The finishing processes then proceed, and according to the quality, condition, or style to be produced consist of pumicing or pouncing with sandpaper, glazing (this term is used for watering the hat after the

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nap is perfectly in order), ironing and polishing. The hat if hard is then curled by the shaper, trimmed, that is bound, lined, leathered, returned to the shaper for shaping, then banded, tipped off, and is ready for the wearer. Prior to being dispatched to the retailer for sale the hat is "capped up," that is put in paper, and the method is one that, simple though it appears, is not so easily acquired, but when properly done looks neat and smart.

Such is a brief account of the trade which gave rise to the name of the Company with whose history this little book has to treat. It would perhaps, be uninteresting to deal with the manufacture of silk hats, although those makers who are now alive and are Liverymen of the Company, and whose number is very small, were principally concerned in the manufacture of silk hats, and only two of the present Livery have practically worked at the plank in the manufacture of silk and felt hats; and of the number of the recipients of the Charity annually dispensed very few know the practical part of making hats, but have acquired a theoretical knowledge by selling hats in retail shops, or by ironing up silk hats and polishing felts at hairdressing establishments. The methods of protecting the interests of both employers and workmen adopted during the last half-century have been alike disastrous to both sides. If the Charter originally granted by Charles II to the Feltmakers Company of London had been consistently adhered to, the condition of the trade would have been better by the protection granted, but so many circumstances have occurred that the trade generally has lost any chance of legal protection.

On the 27th day of June, 1667, the Ancient

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Charter was granted by His Majesty King Charles II to the Worshipful Company of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London, the first sheet of which said Charter is as follows :

“ Charles the Second By the Grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the faith. TO ALL to whom these presents shall come greeteing :

“ WHEREAS in the Parliament holden by prorogation at Westminster the first day of September in the eight yeare of Queene Elizabeth there was made one Statute intituled AN ACT for the true makeing of Hatt and Capps IT IS ENACTED that noe person or persons by him or herselfe or any other make or worke any felt or hatt of or with any forreigne Wooll or Stuffe unlesse such person first have been Apprentice or Covenant Servant to such Mistery of Hatt and feltmakeing by the space of seaven yeares at the least upon paine to forfeite the said Hatt or felt and five pound in money for every moneth that hee should soe continue as by the said Act amongst divers other things therein conteyned more plainly appeares AND WHEREAS by another Act of Parliament made at Westminster in the first yeare of the Raigne of our Royall Grandfather King James IT IS ENACTED that noe person or persons from and after forty dayes next after the end of that Session of Parliament should make or cause to bee made any felt or Hatt of or with any stuffe whatsoever unlesse hee or they should first have served as Apprentices in the aforesaid trade or art of feltmakeing dureing the space of seaven yeares at the least neither should they reteyne and sett to worke in the said art any other person

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or persons then Journymen that had lawfully served in that art as apprentices lawfully bound to the said trade or art or above the number of two Apprentices at one tyme nor those for any lesse terme then seaven yeares upon paine to forfeite five pound for every month that hee should continue offending contrary to the true meaneing of the same Act AND FURTHER that noe person or persons from and after the said fforty dayes should reteyne or sett to worke in the said Arte of Hatt or ffeltmakeing any person or persons borne out of our Realmes and Dominions of England Scotland and Ireland upon paine to forfeite five pound for every moneth wherein such person or persons should soe offend contrary to the true meaneing of the said Act as by the said Act of Parliament amongst divers other provisions and other things therein conteyned more fully appeares AND WHEREAS our said Royal Grandfather King James of ever blessed memory by his letters patent under the Great Seale of England beareing date the Second day of August in the second yeare of his said Raigne over England reciteing amongst other thing in the said Act of Parliament and takeing notice that there were then about the City of London and Suburbs of the same Cittty about seaven Thousand persons of the said trade or mistery of ffeltmakers who might bee better ordered and Governed and Hatt and ffelt might bee more truly and substantially wrought and made if the said persons of the said trade or mistery of ffelt-makers were incorporated and subject to the view search and correction of men of the said Arte or Mistery that were

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best able to discerne the abuses of the same and could not being soe many and of soe great a number bee well governed without reasonable and convenient Orders Constitutions and Ordinances to bee made and sett downe concerning the said Arte or Mistery nor any such Orders Constitutions or Ordinances could bee duely executed and putt in use without governours and persons that might have authority to execute the same for which end and purposes it pleased our said Royall grandfather upon the humble supplication made unto him by the feltmakers of the Citty of London and the suburbs of the same and within fower miles distance from the said Citty of London to grant Constitute ordeyne and declare that all and every person and persons being feltmakers then inhabiteing and dwelling within the said Citty of London and suburbs of the same Cittie and within any place or places not above fower miles distant from the said Citty of London should bee from thenceforth for ever one body Corporate and politique in matter deede and name by the name of Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Arte or Mistery of feltmakers of London and them by the name of Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Arte or Mistery of feltmakers of London our said Royall Grandfather Did for him his heires and Successors Erect make ordeyne and create to bee one Body Corporate and Politique in deed and name really and fully by the same his Letters patent aforesaid And did thereby invest them with divers powers and Privilidges for the well ordering and government of themselves and their said Art and mistery As by the said Letters patent of our said Royall

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Grandfather amongst other thing therein conteyned more at large it doth and may appeare AND WHEREAS wee have ben informed that since the granting of the said Corporation unto the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of felt-makers of London the Lord Maior of our said Citty of London and Aldermen of the same Citty have owned the said Company and have inrolled their Charter or Corporation amongst other Charters of the said Citty in the Roll of the same Citty for their better Regulation and Governement and have granted to them and their Successors divers priviledges and libertyes in such manner as then were and are now used by other Companyes of the same Citty according to the ancient Customes thereof AND WHEREAS likewise since the granting of the said Corporation by our said Royall Grandfather wee are informed the said Company of feltmakers have attained to a farr greater skill in the makeing and felting of Hatt then heretofore was knowne or used and to a greater knowledge of severall sorts of Wooll as well of the growth of these our Kingdomes of England Scotland and Ireland as of Wooll brought from beyond the Seas to the honor of the English nation the proffit of our people and increase of our Customes AND WHEREAS the said Master Wardens and Comonalty of the Art or Mistery of felt-makers of our said Citty of London by their petition to us exhibited shewing that the feltmakers within the City of London and suburbs thereof and fower miles compasse are growne very numerous have humbly prayed that as a marke of our Royall favour toward them wee would bee graciously pleased by our Letters Patent under our greate Seale of England

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to grant and confirme unto them as well the said Letters patent of Incorporation made by our said Royall Grandfather King James As also all the Grant powers libties privileges clauses and authorities therein respectively conteyned other than what is herein or hereby altered corrected or changed together with such further and other liberties powers and privilidges as to us in our princely wisdoms shall seeme requisite and necessary for the better order rule and Government of the said Corporation and the members thereof AND WEE WILLING and intending the continuance and support of the said Corporation and the improvement of the said Arte or mystery of feltmakers by all just and lawfull meanes and to the end they may bee armed and ympowered to suppress and reforme all abuses practised by persons who take upon them without sufficient skill and knowledge to make greate numbers of Hatt and felt to the greate damage of all our Subject buying the same And that the said Art or mystery of makeing hatt and felt within the said Citty and places aforesaid may from henceforth be duely artificially and truly exercised And that noe person or persons may hereafter repaire unto our said Citty of London the suburbs of the same Citty or foure miles compasse thereof to bee sett on worke or imployed as a Journyman in the said Art or mystery of feltmakeing unlesse such person or persons shall have justly and truly served the full terme of Seaven yeares as an Apprentice by Indenture in the said trade or Arte to some Master exercising the same nor that any master workman of ye said mystery should keepe above the number of

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two Apprentices at any one tyme nor those for any lesse terme than seaven yeares contrary to ye above written Act of Parliament."

Such was the Charter granted to the Feltmakers Company, which was originally founded to regulate the manufacture and sale of felt hats, and springing, as we stated at the outset, from the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers received its separate incorporation under James I in the year 1604. It had a general supervision of the trade in London and for four miles in the suburbs, and by an ordinance of 1759 all persons carrying on the trade in London were ordered to be free of the Company. To get, however, to the first inception of the Company, it is necessary to go further back, and it is found in the records of the Haberdashers Company that their Charter of Incorporation was dated June 3rd, 1488, under Henry VI. This Company was united with the Hatters and Furriers, April 7th, 1501. The "Haberdashers" was originally a branch of the "Mercers" Company (the premier Livery Company), but separated in the interests of the Haberdashers and Milliners. As "mercers" and "merchants" originally meant much the same thing, it is likely that under this application several trades were all united until the special interests of each trade demanded a closer association of the persons engaged in it. The Feltmakers may, therefore, be almost called an off-shoot of the Mercers Company, the earliest records of which date back as far as the reign of Henry the Second, the father of Thomas à Becket, a Liveryman of the Mercers, being said to be one of the earliest Mayors of London. Although no actual Charter is in existence of an earlier date than Richard II, dated January 13th, 1393, it is inferred from there being no



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mention of the "Mercers" among the "Gilds set up without the King's Licence" that the Company was constituted by the authority of Henry II about the year 1158.

The persons engaged in the feltmaking trade were first incorporated by James I on August 2nd, 1604, and re-incorporated by Charles II on January 27th, 1667. Another Charter was received from Charles II in 1669, and this was confirmed by George III on December 4th, 1772. By-Laws for the good management of the Guild were certified by the Lord Chancellor and Chief Justices on July 31st, 1745, and all persons carrying on this trade were compelled to become freemen of the Company by order of the Common Council dated June 6th, 1759. A Livery was granted by the Court of Mayor and Aldermen in 1733, and increased in number in April, 1787, when the present Arms of the Company were adopted, together with its Crest and Motto:

DECUS ET TUTAMEN,

which may be translated—"Use and Ornament."

The ordinary privileges of the Livery of London accompanied the granting of the Livery, but those privileges have gradually become reduced until at the time of our writing the principal privileges are voting as Liverymen for a Member of Parliament for the City of London, voting in Common Hall for Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and other and minor officers of the Corporation. In the ancient days the Companies had considerably more powers than they have now, and they used them, but as the privileges of each Liveryman of a Company descend to his sons from subsequently to the date of his father's admission to the Livery, and as comparatively few are succeeded by their sons in their own

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business, the number of actual members now on the Livery of this Company is very small and has occasioned the cessation of any control by the Company over the trade for more than one hundred years.

The Arms are Argent, a dexter hand couped at the wrist gules, between two bands bowed azure, in chief a hat sable banded of the third. Crest, on a wreath, a naked arm embowed proper, holding in the hand a sable banded azure.

To the members of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers, and more particularly those members who are connected with the businesses of Furriers and Hat Makers, the following extract from Stow's London, Vol. 2, will be particularly interesting :

“ The Company of Feltmakers were incorporated by Charter the 2nd day of August in the Second year of King James I, by the name of Master, Wardens and the Commonalty of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London ; and again by Charter of incorporation and confirmation by the same name bearing date the 27th of June, in the nineteenth year of King Charles II.

“ The fashion of wearing Hats or Felts, as they formerly called them, began to take great place in Queen Elizabeth's reign, and they were of two sorts ; viz., Fine Felts and Coarse : the former were made of Wool brought from Spain, called Spanish Wool ; and the latter made of Estridge Wool, brought from the East Countries, they were for the wearing of country people, and of the meaner sort ; and sometimes they were covered with velvet, taffeta, or such-like. In the year 1576 the Feltmakers sued to the Lord Treasurer to befriend them in their supplication to the Queen to be incorporated. Being,

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as they set forth in their petition, the ancient and discreetest sort of them, that those of this trade were four hundred householders, dispersed and resident in sundry parts of the City and Suburbs as Southwark, Catherines and other places."

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COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT

in the

"LONDON GAZETTE," No. 868.

From Thursday, March 12 to Sunday, March 16,  
1673.

"The sixth day of *February* last, according to an Order of His Majesty in Council the sixth day of *June* last, were delivered out of the Custom-house, *London*, unto the Master and Wardens of the Company of *Feltmakers*, Thirty dozen and six Hats, being Foreign Goods prohibited by Law, and by the said Master and Wardens were then openly burnt in *Woolchurch* Market-place in *London*. And on the 23 day of *February* last according to the said Order of His Majesty in Council, were delivered out of the Custom-house of *Rye*, to the Wardens of the said Company of *Feltmakers*, *London*, Fortyfour dozen and six Foreign Hats, being prohibited Goods, and were then by the said Wardens in the Market-place in *Rye* openly burnt."

The above advertisement is sufficient proof that the Master and Wardens had the right and privilege of seizing and destroying all Hats of Foreign Manufacture, which, until the close of the 18th Century, was rigorously adopted. It is inserted here to partly illustrate the portion of records which follows.

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“That they had no Government of themselves as other Companies, and that they made their Felts for the most part very deceitfully and of corrupt and unlawful stuff brought out of Spain and other places ; bought up by such as had no skill or knowledge, whether they were good or bad, and by them retailed to such Feltmakers as for lucre were content to make deceitful wares to the deceiving the wearers thereof, to the breach of the Queen’s Laws, and the slander and utter reproach of the whole Company ; which if it were not in time foreseen and reformed would be the overthrow of the whole Company, and the utter impoverishment of their poor wives, children, and families, therefore they sued that they might be made a body corporate by Her Majesty’s Letters Patent. But it seems the Haberdashers, of which Company these Feltmakers were, proved too hard for them. So that the Lords of the Council would not then allow their petition but after much contest between them they came to an Agreement, and the Feltmakers were to submit themselves to the Haberdashers to be searched, ruled and governed by the Master and Wardens and that there should be certain rules drawn between them for the better government of the said Trade of Feltnaking and of their servants. At length Orders and Rules were by their own consents made and devised and on both their parts promised and agreed to be performed and kept ; and which were required to be set down in the Star Chamber between them.

“The Hat Makers or Feltmakers in the year 1583, endeavoured to get a patent from the Queen ; to put that Statute (in the 8th year of Her Reign) into execution which was made about their Trade, that none should occupy

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the same but such as had been apprentices to it for seven years, for afterwards divers that had not served that time and others that had never been apprentices at all enticed divers young apprentices and hired servants from London from their Masters and maintained and kept them at work at the same trade and would keep some three, four or five apprentices and for less years than the Statute limited. Whereby they were grown to so great a number of Feltmakers in the Country that the Feltmakers in London living within the Compas of the Statute and keeping all other duties and observances within the City of London were not able to live upon the said trade and to maintain themselves and their great families without some present remedy. Richard Seckford, one of the Queen's masters of requests, July 3, 1583, moved the Queen, then at Greenwich, in this suit; who then referred the same to the Lord Treasurer. Thomas Blank, Lord Mayor and Master of the Haberdashers Company, wrote to the said Seckford, March 27 the year above said that a motion having been made by the Feltmakers to them for the furtherance of their suit, they thought the suit very reasonable and needful to be granted for all offenders against the said Statute. But forasmuch as the Feltmakers and all within three miles of London were under the Government and correction of the Company of Haberdashers, the Company prayed him, that there might be a proviso in their book, that they should not by force of their grant, intermeddle with any Hat Makers inhabiting within the City, or three miles compas, than to the Master and Wardens of the said Company, for the time being, should be thought meet and expedient. And that when

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any occasion should be to use their grant for the punishment of any offender within the limits of the said Company, the patentees to have the one part of all forfeitures coming in that behalf and the Company to have the other half towards the relief of the poor Feltmakers. The Feltmakers bought their wool, flocks and other stuff for their Hats of the Merchants both strangers and English; which wools were brought from Spain and France the East Country and other Foreign Countries. But these commodities were often very bad, being fallen May wool, rotten, and other ill wool not apt, meet, nor capable to be wrought or used in making of any Hats or Felts, and partly unwashed and full of sand, filth, dross, corrupt, and unlawful stuff most deceitfully packed up in sacks, and other close things and wound up in Fleeces, being neither such merchantable nor staple wares, as it had been, nor in Truth, Conscience, Justice and Equity it ought to be. By which deceitful wools, and other stuffs, the Feltmakers sustained great loss and damage and many times a number of them, their poor wives and families utterly undone. Whereupon in January, 1579, they made a petition to the Queen under the names of Thomas Caunton, Thomas Bradford and others, who had subscribed their names in their own behalf and in behalf of more than 3,000 of Her Majesty's subjects in the City of London, Bermondsey, St. Catherines and elsewhere to authorise one of Her Majesty's subjects or his assigns for indifferency sake to search, sort, and cleanse the said wools, stocks and other stuffs.

“They likewise petitioned the Lord Treasurer to the same purport, and in their address to him, they showed that in their wool, it was so bad,

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that they commonly lost one-half or third part and in the best of it brought into the Realm they usually lost a fourth part, and that the making of Felts then much increasing in England, and thereby great numbers of the Queen's poor subjects set on work they were constrained to buy great quantities of said evil and deceitful wools because they could get no other, the same being brought into the Realm, most by English Merchants, Aldermen and the best Commoners of London and other Cities and Towns in the West parts, which foreign wools till within this few years were brought in only by strangers. And then the same was washed and void of May wool and other rotten and ill wool, dross, dust, land, etc. And if any was found contrary the buyer did usually return it to the Merchant, or else had allowance for the same, and then the Merchant by certificate made return thereof into the foreign countries and to the persons by whom it had been bought and had like allowance for the same.

"The said Feltmakers drew up their desire in several articles, presented to the Queen, the chief whereof was, that she would grant them one of her servants, and his assigns, to search, sort and cleanse these wools and stuffs; and a good Fee to be allowed him. And although it was a large fee, yet it would be well deserved; for that two men could hardly discharge and dispatch a hundredweight in a day, to do it well. Adding that the Merchants would not lose thereby, but only would hereafter take care to import better and cleaner wools, for which they might have a better price.

"To these petitions and desires of the Feltmakers, the Merchants in the February following gave their

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answer, first in some heat and anger, accusing the chief agitators in this business, viz. Caunton and Bradford, as if they were of slender credit, and of the worst sort of Felters and haunters of taverns. Where they entered into devices not to do any good to the Commonwealth, but to maintain their idle lives with other men's goods. That many, whose hands were set to the petition did disallow the matters contained in it. They added that the Merchants brought those wools from Spain, without any falsifying, corrupting, or mingling by the way, and therefore were not to be punished with new charges of meddling officers, which charges must not be raised upon the poor workmen and buyers. That it was true the wools of Cryland were washed and picked; but the usage of Spain was not so. That touching the fare of gross and weighty bags of Spanish wool whereof the Feltmakers said they had no allowance, they abused the Lords of the Council; for those wools were not brought in gross and weighty bags, but commonly such as were carried two sacks upon an horse, and seldom exceeding one hundred and a half or an hundred and three-quarters, and yet how small soever they were, the Felters were allowed eight pounds for the fare of every bag. That where they spake of May wool, they spake ignorantly, or on purpose untruly. For those Spanish wools for Felters were not Fleece-wools wherein May wool could be, but altogether Lamb-wool, or such as could have no May-wool, unless it were by great hap, very rarely a Lock of an old Lamb, or such like long wool. That it was reason, that wools in England serving for cloth, should be washed, cleansed, and wound, or else they would not serve the



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clothiers; but contrariwise, the Spanish wools for Felting could not be wound, but be loose in Locks, because it is Lamb-wool, or very short. Neither ought they to be washed or cleansed, for they must be kept in their Fatness, as they came from the sheep, or else they would not Felt, or meet together and serve for the use of Felting; and so those new offers should do more hurt than good, besides that the sorting was a vain work. For no Feltmaker could discern the wool good for Felters, however it were sorted, till they had tried it, and therefore the best workmen of them did use to take samples for trial before they bargained for it. That, whereas they said Spanish wools by the Merchants' deceitfulness and corruption have often been returned by certificate, it was wholly untrue. Their Honours were desired also to consider, that the means which Her Majesty's subjects had to bring oils, and those wools, being the natural commodities of those countries, made that people favourable to the English. And that if the said device of the Feltmakers should take effect, it might not only be a great hindrance to the Merchants, but also to the Navy of the Realm, daily employed in bringing home those wools, and a great hindrance to Her Majesty's Customs. To this three Aldermen subscribed their hands, viz., Thomas Pullison afterwards Mayor, Francis Bowyer, and George Bond, and several other Merchants, as Hewyt, Haidon, Whitmore, Folkys and thirteen more.

"By Bradford and Caunton's stirring so much in this business, it was seen that they endeavoured to get themselves in to be garbles of the Spanish wools.

"These contests made the Lord Treasurer

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inquire into the quantity of wool imported, and Smith the Queen's customer sent in his account from March, 1578, to March, 1579, Spanish wool brought into the Port of London by George Bond, William Bond, William Hewyt and others to the quantity of 7,209 bags, which did contain an hundred or an hundred and a quarter per bag. The Estridge wools, that is the wools imported from the East countries, a coarser sort amount not to two hundredweight.

“But to prevent this office of garbling wools the Haberdashers interfered, alleging this as an infringement of an agreement made between the Haberdashers Company and the Feltmakers, whereof Woodroff, Lord Mayor and Master of the said Company, wrote an account to the Lord Treasurer to put a stop to it if he could, as whereas a suit was made by some light persons for an office of garblership of foreign wools to be erected with several great allowances for the garbling of every bag of wool, to the great charge and trouble of the owners and to the enhancing of the prices of wool by the ordinances lately confirmed to the Company of Haberdashers of London, according to a decree set down by him the Lord Treasurer and others of the Privy Council for the government of the Feltmakers, there was authority expressly given to the Master and Wardens of the said Company, with 5, 4, 3, or 2 of the Feltmakers, to search all foreign wools put to sale by any persons within this City or three miles compass of the same and to punish by fine any person that should offend in utterance of corrupt stuff, with sundry other like authorities for the better government of the said Hat Makers. In the execution of all which ordinances there were jointed yearly to the said Wardens five Feltmakers

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who had hitherto dealt as effectually as they could in reforming all abuses, and had not spared to do anything to the great charges of the Company which was required of them to do by the said five Feltmakers. In all which time they never required the Master and Wardens to search foreign wools, or complained of any necessity of any search therein being made, which the Wardens and others if need had been either known to themselves or informed by others would not have failed to have done what had been requisite, and finally he moved his Lordship that if by any reason he thought it needful that this garbling should be put in execution then that he would be a means for idifferency sake between the Merchant and the Hat Maker that the Master and Wardens of the said Company with some such skilful persons as they should thereunto appoint might upon information deal in the same in such manner and sort as should be thought needful and expedient; and in this state were these Hatmakers before they were a Corporation.

“It was not before the year 1604 and in the Reign of James I that these Feltmakers were incorporated by Letters Patent from King James I by the name of Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London, granting unto them divers privileges and liberties for the good government of the said Corporation. Being the first Company incorporated by this King, and was obtained by humble and earnest suit of Richard Bannister, John Sanders, Hugh Phillips, Robert Brown and others, Feltmakers of London.”

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The Company had upwards of one thousand members, who became practically the Felt and Beaver

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Hat Makers of London and four miles round. Every person who carried on the business was compelled by Act of Parliament to be a Freeman of the Company, and careful observation appears to have been kept on any person who was suspected of breaking this law, for by an attentive reading of the Minutes it is discovered that many were found from time to time to be carrying on the business not having been admitted to the Company and were fined.

As an instance, on the 19th of June, 1704, Warden Dale informed the Court, "That one Stephen Chamberlain, a foreign feltmaker not free of this Company, living at Lambeth, is willing to pay a fine of £20 for his admission into the Company according to the Bye-Laws, provided the Company will prosecute the other foreigners of the trade that are set up within 4 miles of London which the Court by vote agreed to, and that the said S. Chamberlain shall be admitted a member of this Company on payment of the said £20."

At this same Court it may be of interest to record that Thomas Nettleton of Sunnings Farm (now known as Sullens Farm) appeared and desired an allowance from the Company towards the repairs of the damage occasioned by the dreadful tempest on 27 and 28 November last. The Court agreed to give him four pounds if he did the repairs to the Court's satisfaction and paid his rent at Michaelmas.

As mention will be made of this farm later it can now be left, while for a brief space may be considered the bearing of the Company on the Hat Trade as it then was, has since been, and now is. It is quite evident that the desire and intention of the promoters of the Company was to protect the interests of masters as well as men, because of

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the insistence that no one should be allowed to practise the Art or Mystery who had not served as an apprentice for seven years, and sometimes for a longer period, for at a Court specially summoned to and held at the Pewterers Hall, Lime Street, on Monday, 5th October, 1730, a resolution was passed as follows :

“ That Jacob Pinkner, son of Nathaniel, of Bermondsey in the County of Surrey, Marriner, be bound to Thomas Sanderson, Citizen and Feltmaker of London, for EIGHT years.”

Again : “ At a Meeting at the ‘ Christopher ’ Inn, in Bermondsey St., on Tuesday, 3 day of September, Anno Dom. 1728, present—

Mr. Ryde, Upper Warden,

Mr. Ward, Assistant.

Ordered—A note to the Chamberlain to turn over John Almond, apprenticed to Wm. Butler, Citizen and Feltmaker of London, to Thomas Almond, also Citizen and Feltmaker of London, for the rest of his time.”

Thus it will be seen that every possible precaution was taken to ensure that all persons who should hereafter desire to engage in the Art or Mystery of Felt Hat Making should be properly bound apprentice to and serve a full term of at least seven years to one who not only was a perfect professor and master of the art, but was in addition a member of the Company. And although it was not until 1733 that the Company first applied to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen for a Charter or Warrant of that Court to be a Livery Company, yet there are abundant evidences from the old Minute Books that the loyalty to the City and Corporation was most sincere. One of the many instances of this, and probably at that time a most interesting one, was

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that each year at the meeting for election of officers, the first Thursday in October, in addition to Master, four Wardens, Clerk, two Beadles (or "Bedels" as they appear to have been then described), two Stewards were elected to provide a dinner on November 9th, being the Lord Mayor's Day, for the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants, and as this dinner appears to have been at the entire expense of the Stewards, it is not surprising that occasionally those elected as Stewards declined to serve and were fined.

The following extract from the minutes illustrates the reference :

"At a Court held 4 day Oct., 1759: A motion being made and the question being put that the Bye-Laws of this Company relating to the fines of non-attendance be continued in force or not, it was ordered that the said Bye-Law be continued in force."

At the same meeting it appears a case had been laid before the Common Serjeant as to the means of recovering fines from members refusing to take office, and the Clerk was ordered to take such steps against one Joseph Brown\* as he might be advised by the Common Serjeant.

The said dinner was usually held at the Ship Tavern, Gracechurch Street, or the "Ship," afterwards called "Ship and Turtle," Leadenhall Street. The dinner was to be on the table at 3 o'clock in the afternoon precisely, and the Clerk was ordered to send each person a menu at least ten days before the time ; but with what object this order was made is not disclosed.

On the 30th September, 1760, some alteration appears to have been made with regard to the dinner, as the following Minute illustrates :

\* Was elected one of two Stewards to provide dinner on Lord Mayor's Day.

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“Ordered—That the present Master and Wardens provide a dinner for the next election day at the Hall (9th) for the assistants and their wives, and that no member shall bring any other person to the said dinner than one child with him besides his wife, on pain of forfeiting ten shillings, and that no old deceased members’ widows be invited to the said dinner.”—Why this reservation was made does not appear; whether the Feltmakers of those days had an aversion to widows or whether widows were more voracious in those days than at present must be left to imagination. It will be remembered that a famous writer of some hundred and fifty years after advises all folks, through one of his characters, “to beware of widows.”

It is to be presumed that these dinners continued, and that whenever the Court met subsequently it was their custom to dine together, because on the 4th of July, 1774, the following appears on the minutes :

Ordered—That the several meetings of this Court at Pewterers Hall, Lime Street, be discontinued from and after Michaelmas next, and from thenceforth be held at an apartment proper for that purpose in the Guildhall of this City, and that the Clerk do give the Pewterers Company one quarter’s notice of such intention. And it was Ordered—That for the future the allowance of forty shillings for providing a dinner for the Master and Wardens on private Court days be discontinued, and that in lieu thereof two shillings and sixpence be given to the Master, Wardens, Clerk, his Deputy, Bedle, severally, if they shall respectively attend at such private Courts before the hour of twelve o’clock at noon, and that two shillings and sixpence be paid to each of the

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members of the Court of Assistants who shall attend on the four quarterly Courts within one hour after the time to be mentioned in each person's summons.

As for some considerable time after this the meetings appear to have continued at Pewterers Hall, the suitable apartment at the Guildhall was probably not obtained. There appears to have been some difficulty experienced with the Pewterers Hall, because on Monday, 5th January, 1756 (18 years previous), among other resolutions and orders appears :

Moved by Mr. Lawford and seconded by Mr. Warren that application be made to the Pewterers Company to know whether they will accept of eight pounds per annum for the Hall, and in case they refuse to accept the same to give them warning that this Company will quit the same. And the question being put it was carried in the affirmative, *nem. con.* and ordered accordingly.

However, the reply not being recorded on the minutes, on 5th April, 1756, it was agreed to offer £10 per annum. At that same January it was :

Ordered—That no more than four General Quarterly Courts of this Company be held for the future, and that such Courts be held on the first Thursday in October, the first Monday in January, the first Monday in April, and the first Monday in July in each year, and that the Master and Wardens do attend at a proper place to be appointed on the intermediate Court days as usual in order to do the ordinary business of the Company, and that a sum not exceeding twenty shillings be allowed for the expenses of every such meeting.

Many resolutions of the Courts are most interesting and would well repay a visit to the



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Guildhall Library, yet time will not permit of them being included herein. It is evident that meetings were not allowed in the City on what is commonly known as Guy Fawkes Day, because at the Court Meeting on Thursday, 4th October, 1753, among other orders appears the following :

Ordered—That the next Court be held on the 12th of November next, the first Monday being Gunpowder Treason.

Further important minutes are : At a Court Meeting, held at the Pewterers Hall, Lime Street, on Thursday, 4th October, 1764 :

Ordered—That Mr. Deputy Rosseter and Mr. Grafton be desired to collect the Custom House Accounts yearly of what Hats are exported from this kingdom, distinguishing from what ports and to what places ; also what hare skins and rabbit skins, and beaver skins, and hare wool, rabbit wool and beaver wool are imported into and exported out of this kingdom ; and that they be empowered to draw upon the Renter Warden of this Company for the time being for the expense thereof.

On the 6th April, 1767, it was reported that the Court ordered a petition to be presented to the Rt. Hon. Chas. Townshend, Esquire, Chancellor of His Majesty's Exchequer, to the effect that the manufacture of hats from lamb's wool, rabbit wool and beaver wool and other materials is of great consequence to the trade of this kingdom, the landowners, the farmers, the colonists, the navigators and the merchants being benefited thereby and many thousands poor persons being employed thereon.

That as the women of the country were previously in the habit of wearing hats and bonnetts made of felt or beaver they were now wearing

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hats made of chip and straw imported from foreign countries, and specifying at great length the great injury done to the hat trade, he would tax the imports of such foreign material as would tend to improve the said trade in this kingdom. It concludes with :

“ Your memorialists therefore humbly beg leave to represent the premises to your consideration, praying that such relief may be given as is consistent with the importance of the object, and as to your wisdom shall seem meet.”

Mr. Deputy Rosseter, who had charge of the matter, reported to the Court of Assistants that the House of Commons had come to the following resolutions :

Resolved—That towards raising the supply granted to His Majesty, an additional duty of six shillings on every dozen of Bast Straw Chip Cane and Horsehair Hats and Bonnetts which from and after the 2 day of April, 1767, shall be entered inwards at any port or place in this kingdom.

Resolved—That towards raising the supply to His Majesty, an additional duty of six shillings be laid upon every pound weight avoirdupois of platting or other manufacture of Bast or Straw Chip or Horsehair to be used in or proper for making of hats or bonnetts which from and after the said second day of April shall be entered inwards at any port or place in this kingdom.

After the Court had read and received this report it was decided that, as soon as the Bill grounded on the said resolutions shall be passed into law, the thanks of this Court be given to His Grace the Duke of Grafton and the Rt. Hon. Chas. Townshend for their assistance in passing the said Bill, and that Mr. Deputy Rosseter and

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the Committee who assisted him should present the said thanks in such manner as they shall think proper.

At a Court Meeting held at Pewterers Hall on 3rd March, 1783, among other resolutions, it was :

Ordered—That the Master and Wardens, together with Mr. T. Smith, Mr. Trehearne, Mr. Hensley, Mr. Warren and Mr. Crafton, are appointed a Committee to inspect, examine, peruse and maturely consider of all and singular the Charters, bye-laws, books, papers and writings of this Company, and to report to the next General Court their opinion when and where the last Quarterly General Court was held pursuant to the 17th Bye-law, and for what reason the Quarterly General Courts thereby appointed came to be discontinued. And the said Committee are, with the Charters and bye-laws of this Company, to review and consider the opinion of George Crompton, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, lately taken thereupon, and to report their opinion to the next General Court how far the said Charters and bye-laws are adequate and competent to the purposes of this Company, and more particularly to the purposes of enforcing the payment of quarterages now due, or hereafter to become due, to this Company and the taking up of the Freedom thereof. And wherein the same or either of them are deficient for attaining those purposes or either of them and how such deficiency may be remedied or supplied. And the said Committee are to meet for the first time on Monday the 5th day of May next, and to adjourn from time to time and from place to place as they shall think meet and convenient. And they are to propose to the Court in writing such means or expedients as to them shall seem most eligible

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for enforcing the due and regular payment of the quarterages and the taking up the Freedom of this Company in future. And also for restoring or reviving the Quarterly Meetings and enforcing the due attendance of the members thereat. And the said Committee are to offer their opinion to the General Court whether it would be advisable and for the interest of the Company to rescind or abolish any and which of the present bye-laws or to form an entire new code of bye-laws or any and what new bye-laws under their present Charters. Or to apply for a new Charter enlarging the powers of the Company not only over their own members but over all such as either openly or collusively interfere or intermeddle in the Art or Mistery of Feltnaking or anything appertaining thereunto. And that the Clerk do attend the said Committee at their several meetings.

At the General Quarterly Court, summoned and held at the Pewterers Hall, Lime Street, London, on Monday, the 7th day of July, 1783, the Committee appointed at the last General Court reported as follows :

First—Your Committee having duly inspected, examined, and maturely considered all and singular the premises referred to them by the last General Court of this Company, holden on the seventh day of April, 1783, do report to the Company at their General Court, this seventh day of July, 1783, as follows : (First) That this Committee do report, that the Worshipful Company of the Art or Mistery of Feltnakers of London is an Ancient Company, and that the said Company was first incorporated by a certain Charter granted by his late Majesty King James the First in the second year of his reign, which

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Charter was afterwards confirmed by a certain other Charter, granted by his late Majesty King Charles the Second in the nineteenth year of his reign, which last-mentioned Charter is still extant.

Secondly—This Committee do report that by the said last-mentioned Charter his said Majesty King Charles the Second did, amongst other things, grant unto the Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of the said Art or Mistery or the major part of them (whereof the Master and one of the Wardens to be always two), that the said Master, Wardens and Commonalty should and might from time to time for ever have full power and authority to admit and make free members of their said Corporation all persons who were Feltmakers by trade and already had or thereafter should have duly served seven years' apprenticeship to the said trade of Feltmaking by indenture bound, who should be called the Commonalty of the said Art or Mistery.

Thirdly—This Committee do report that his said late Majesty did also grant that it should be lawful for the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the said Art or Mistery, or the greater part of them, and their successors for ever, to assemble, corporate and congregate together to intreat, consult, ordain and make statutes, laws and ordinances touching the rule and government of the said Master, Wardens and Commonalty, and every member thereof and all other persons using the said Art or Mistery within London or the suburbs or four miles of the said City as to them should seem meet and convenient, and in what manner and order the said Master, Wardens and Commonalty, and all other persons using the said Art or Mistery within the said City and

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suburbs and within four miles of the said City should demean and behave themselves as well in all and singular matters, causes and things touching the said Art or Mistery as in their several offices, functions, misterys, and businesses touching the said Art or Mistery, and singular such pains, penalties and punishments by fine or amerciament or any of them against or upon any offender or offenders which should transgress, break or violate the said statutes, laws or ordinances or any of them to impose, provide and limit, and the same fines and amerciaments to ask, levy, take, and receive, by way of distress or otherwise, against the offenders, their goods or chattels as to the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the said Art or Mistery, or the greater part of them, shall seem most convenient or expedient. All which laws, ordinances, constitutions, institutions, and articles so to be made the said King Charles did by his said letters patent grant and command to be from time to time obeyed and performed so as the same laws, statutes, ordinances and articles or any of them be not repugnant or contrary to the laws and statutes of England or customs of the said City of London.

Fourthly—This Committee do report that on the 13th day of November, 1733, the Company of Feltmakers of the City of London was by the Court of Common Council of London made a Livery Company, and their said last-mentioned Charter and bye-laws were ordered to be enrolled among the records of the other Livery Companies of the City of London.

Fifthly—This Committee do report that amongst other orders, rules and ordinances of the Master, Wardens and Commonalty of this Company duly made, ordained, constituted and agreed

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to by the Master, Wardens and Commonalty at a Court held on the second day of January, 1743, and which were duly and properly ratified, allowed and approved of according to the form of the Statute in that behalf, made and provided, they find a certain Order, Rule and Ordinance No. 17 in the words and to the tenor and effect following, that is to say :

Also it is ordered that four times in the year, that is to say, on Monday next after the Feast-day of Saint Michael the Archangel, on the Monday next after the Feast-day of the Epiphany commonly called the twelfth day, on the Monday next after the Feast-day of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin St. Mary, and on the Monday next after the Feast-day of the Nativity of St. John Baptist, or on the Monday then next following every of the said Mondays after every of the Feast-days last above-mentioned at the appointment of the Master for the time being, there shall be holden for the said Art or Mistery four General Assemblies or Courts, commonly called the four Quarter days of Assemblies, unto which shall be summoned the whole body of the said Art or Mistery, and all other person or persons whatsoever using or exercising the said Art or Mistery within the compass and places aforesaid, that is to say, within the City of London or suburbs of the said City or within four miles compass thereof, at which time all the orders of the said Art or Mistery contained in these ordinances (if need shall require) shall be then and there distinctly and openly read unto them there assembled to the intent they may the better learn to observe and keep the same, and whosoever shall make default in appearing at the Common Hall or place of meeting at the said four General Quarterly

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Courts at the hour to be appointed and having lawful summons, and no just or lawful excuse for such his absence to be approved by the said Master, Wardens and Assistants or the major part of them, shall forfeit and pay to the said Master and Wardens for the time being (to the uses aforesaid) such reasonable fine as shall be assessed by the said Master Wardens and Assistants or the greater part of them so that it exceed not five shillings.

And that this Committee also find a certain other Rule and Ordinance (No. 18) in the words and to the tenor and effect following, that is to say: Also it is ordered that every person whatsoever which now do or hereafter shall use or exercise the said Art or Mistery of Feltmakers or anything thereunto appertaining which now do or any time or times hereafter shall dwell within the City of London or suburbs of the said City or within four miles compass thereof and shall keep a family as he is allowed by the ordinances and rules of this Company so to do shall on every of the said quarter days bring into the Common Hall or place of meeting of the said Master, Wardens and Assistants, and there pay unto the Renter Warden of the said Company for the time being to and for the uses aforesaid for his or her quarterage, that is to say, four shillings of lawful money of England yearly and every year; journeymen now using or exercising or which hereafter shall use or exercise the said Art or Mistery of Feltmaking or anything thereunto belonging, dwelling within the places or compass aforesaid, shall pay for their quarterage four pence on every the said quarter days above mentioned (that is to say) sixteen pence yearly and every year to and for the uses aforesaid, the



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journeymen's quarterage to be collected and gathered every quarter of a year, or once a year, by the Wardens of the said Company at the houses or shops where such journeymen shall work, and whosoever shall refuse to make payment of their quarterage at the places above mentioned for payment thereof respectively should forfeit and pay to the said Master and Wardens for every time he shall so refuse, neglect, or delay the sum of five shillings of lawful money to and for the uses aforesaid.

And this Committee also find a certain other Order, Rule and Ordinance (No. 41) in the words and to the tenor and effect following: Also it is ordered that it shall be lawful to and for the said Master, Wardens and Assistants of the said Art or Mistery of Feltmakers or any three or more of them by their Beadle or other Officer to summon and warn in the name of the said Master and Wardens all and every person and persons now using or which at any time hereafter shall use or exercise the said Art or Mistery of Feltmaking, or anything thereunto belonging, within the limits and precincts aforesaid to appear before the said Master and Wardens at their hall and meeting for what cause soever it shall happen to be concerning the said trade, or for any complaint made against him, and if such person so warned doth not appear at the hour and place to him appointed according to the summons he shall forfeit and pay to the said Master and Wardens to and for the uses aforesaid, for his first offence sixpence, for his second offence twelvepence, and so for every time increasing double until he shall appear, unless he shall have such reasonable excuse for his not appearing as the Master, Wardens and Assistants or any three of them shall think fit to allow off.

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And that this Committee also find a certain other Order, Rule and Ordinance (No. 46) in the words and to the tenor and effect following: Also it is ordered that at all times hereafter whensoever it shall please the said Master, Wardens and Assistants by the recommendation from the Lord Mayor of London and the Aldermen his brethren or by any other occasion which should be offered to admit, accept or receive any other person or persons unto the said Company being never before a member thereof that then it shall be lawful to and for the said Master, Wardens and Assistants to have, reserve and take of every such person or persons which shall be by them at any time hereafter so admitted, accepted, or received into the said Company such like ancient fees and duties as now are or have most commonly and usually been paid and received by other Companys of London by the space of twenty years last before the date hereof by and at the discretion of the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the said Art or Mistery or any three or more of them.

And that this Committee also find a certain other Order, Rule and Ordinance (No. 50) in the words and to the tenor and effect following: Also it is ordered that no person not having served the full term of seven years to a Freeman of the said City of London, and of the said Company of Feltmakers, or to a brother or member thereof, shall be admitted into the said Company to be a brother or member thereof unless such person shall pay at such his admission unto the said Master and Wardens of the said Company the sum of £20 of lawful money of England, the same to go towards the support of the government and other incidental charges of the said Company.

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Provided nevertheless that if thereafter the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the said City shall by their order appoint and direct the admission of any person into the Freedom of the said City by redemption into the said Company of Feltmakers that then and in such case the person so to be admitted shall only pay as a fine for his admission the sum of 20s. for the use of the said Company.

And that this Committee find a certain other Order, Rule and Ordinance (No. 54) in the words and to the tenor and effect following: Also it is ordered that for the recovery of all and singular the pains and forfeitures in any of the orders aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the said Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London in the name of their Corporation to recover the same by action of debt in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster or within the City of London.

Sixthly—This Committee do report that they cannot find or discover that the four Quarterly General Courts as before particularly mentioned have at any time or times been held since the making of the said orders, rules and ordinances, or that ever any summons hath been made or issued for the holding thereof, nor can they find or discover that any person or persons whatsoever using or exercising the said Art or Mistery of Feltmakers and things thereunto appertaining dwelling within the City of London and suburbs thereof and within four miles compass thereof, keeping a family, hath or have at any time brought into the Common Hall or place of meeting of the said Company or paid unto the Renter Warden of the Company for the time being

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his, hers or their quarterage of one shilling at the said quarter days, but they do find and discover that divers of such persons have paid and satisfied the arrears of their several quarterages at divers times when they have attended the meetings of the said Company to bind apprentices and to make apprentices free of the said Company and for the doing and transacting of other businesses.

Seventhly—This Committee do report that they do find and discover that heretofore quarterage was collected and gathered from the journeymen at the houses or shops where they severally worked until on or about 1747, but they cannot find or discover that the quarterage of such journeymen was ever paid or gathered at any time since.

Eighthly—This Committee do report that by a certain Act of the Common Council of London, made on the 6th day of June, 1759, it was enacted (amongst other things) that every person using or exercising the Art, Trade or Mystery of Feltmakers not then free of that Company or of any other, should take up his Freedom in the said Company, and that no Feltmaker thereafter should be admitted to his Freedom in any other Company than the Feltmakers Company. And if any person (except such as were then free or had become free) should use or exercise the Art or Mystery of a Feltmaker within the City of London or its Liberties, not being free of the Company of Feltmakers, should forfeit £5 for every offence, to be sued for by the Chamberlain in the Mayor's Court, the moiety of which forfeiture should go to the London Workhouse and the other moiety to the informer.

Ninthly—This Committee do report that by virtue of the aforesaid Charter of King Charles

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the Second granted to the Company of Felt-makers, it appears to this Committee that the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the said Company have power to convene themselves together from time to time to consult, and make rules and ordinances for the rule and government as well of the Master, Wardens and Commonalty of Feltmakers as of all other persons using the Art or Mistery of Feltnaking within London or its suburbs or four miles thereof in all things touching that Art or Mistery, and to impose and inflict reasonable penalties on persons offending or transgressing said rules and ordinances, and that it also appears to this Committee by virtue of the 17th Bye-law before mentioned, that at the appointment of the Master for the time being four General Quarterly Courts ought to be held every year at the days and times specified in the said bye-laws, unto which ought to be summoned the whole body of the said Art or Mistery, and all others using or exercising the said Art or Mistery within London or its suburbs or within four miles of London, at which Courts the rules and ordinances of the said Company ought to be distinctly read to the whole body so assembled (if the same should be required), and that a reasonable fine not exceeding five shillings ought to be imposed by the Master, Wardens and Assistants on such persons as ought and shall not attend on such Quarterly Meetings or shew a reasonable excuse for non-attendance. And that it also appears to this Committee that by virtue of the 18th Bye-law before mentioned, the sum of one shilling at every of the said Quarterly Meetings ought to be demanded of such as shall there attend who use or exercise the said Art or Mistery or anything thereunto apper-

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taining, who dwell within the district aforesaid and keep a family, and that fourpence for every quarter ought to be collected and gathered on every of the said quarter days or once in every year of every journeyman in the said Art or Mistery, or anything thereunto appertaining, at the house or houses where such journeymen work. And that in case any of the persons aforesaid shall refuse or neglect after due notice thereof given to pay their respective quarterages a reasonable fine not exceeding five shillings ought to be imposed by the Master, Wardens and Assistants on such persons so refusing or neglecting to make payment of their quarterage aforesaid. And that if any of the said fines so imposed as aforesaid should not be paid on the demand thereof, that the said Master, Wardens, and Commonalty ought to sue for the same and that the same may be recovered by action of debt brought as in the said code of bye-laws is mentioned.

Tenthly—This Committee do report that there does not appear to them any method of compelling any person not being free of the Company of Feltmakers and using or exercising the said Art or Mistery within the district aforesaid, to take up his Freedom in the said Company, but that it appears to them that if any one not free of the said Company shall use or exercise the said Art or Mistery within the City of London or its liberties he is liable to a forfeiture of £5 for every use of the said Art or Mistery, to be sued for as directed by the Act of Common Council before mentioned.

Eleventhly—This Committee do report that the Charter and bye-laws appear to them to be fully sufficient for the Company, and particularly for the enforcing of the due payment of the quarterages by the persons and parties who

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ought and are hereby bound to contribute and pay the same duty, and that there needs no further Charter or code of bye-laws for the welfare, aggrandisement or security of the said Company.

And Lastly, this Committee do report that from inspection of the books and writings of this Company and from their knowledge of the estates and revenues and of the disbursements, expenses and outgoings of and from the said Company, and from the neglect of holding Quarterly Courts, issuing summonses, exacting and gathering their due quarterages, and from the neglect of persons to take up their Freedom in the said Company, and from neglect to enforce the orders, rules, and ordinances of the said Company made and now in force, and of the said Act of Common Council and other the premises before mentioned, this Company of late years hath been greatly impoverished and is daily more and more becoming impoverished, and to decay in their substances, corporate capacity and dignity.

This is the Report of your Committee made this seventh day of July in the year of our Lord 1783.

The consideration of the report was adjourned to the meeting of the Court specially held at the Pewterers Hall on Monday, the 14th day of July, 1783, when after the transaction of other special business the Court adjourned to the King's Head Tavern, in the Poultry, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, where they met pursuant to such adjournment. The Court proceeded to hear the minutes of the last Committee read and consider the same, when after much debate thereon it was ordered that the further consideration

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thereof be adjourned until the next General Court (being election day). And it is further ordered that it be the first business to be proceeded on at the said next General Court after the minutes of the preceding Courts are read, approved and confirmed.

At the election day meeting held at the Pewterers Hall, Lime Street, on Thursday, the 2nd day of October, 1783, after the confirmation of the minutes of the two previous meetings, it was unanimously resolved and ordered that the Clerk do summon the whole body of this Company to attend the next General Assembly or Court, nominally called a Quarterly Assembly, on Monday, the 19th day of January next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and resolved that the members of this Court be a Committee to inspect and approve the summonses to be issued upon that occasion and to give such further instructions to the Clerk thereon and in respect of the said General Assembly or Court as they shall see occasion.

At the Court held on 14th day of July, 1783, a resolution was passed calling upon two of the Assistants who had never attended since their election to either attend at or send a letter to the next meeting to explain their conduct or to be by that meeting relieved from any further service as Assistants.

The said resolution being of much interest it is hereby quoted *in extenso* :

“ It appearing to this Court in many and repeated instances that this Company hath of late years experienced many very great difficulties in forming their respective Courts and particularly their General Courts occasioned by the non-attendance of certain members of the Court of



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Assistants, to the very great hindrance, delay and injury of the business of this Company, whereby not only the finances but all the pecuniary and other interests and most material concerns of this Company are greatly impaired, declined and fallen to decay, their income diminished and their bye-laws and other useful rules, orders and regulations are fallen into disuse and are likely to come into contempt for want of being duly enforced owing to such neglect and non-attendance as aforesaid, to the evil example of all the other members both now and in time to come, and to the great loss, injury, and impoverishment of the Company in general. And it is thereby become expedient and absolutely necessary for this Court to exercise and exert the powers given them by the 12th Bye-law of this Company to dismiss and discharge all and every of the Wardens and Assistants of this Company who do or shall absent him or themselves from the meetings at their Courts of Assistants for one whole year together from being any longer such Warden or Assistant, and also to elect other members in the stead and place of such as do so absent him or themselves as aforesaid. And it appearing to this Court that Mr. Thomas Cox, one of the Assistants of this Company, hath absented himself and resided in some distant part or place unknown to and out of the reach of the summonses of this Company for several years without having once attended to the office or duty of an Assistant of this Company by assisting or appearing at their General Courts or Courts of Assistants during all that time. And also that Mr. Nicholas Smith, one other of the Assistants of this Company, hath in like manner absented himself and resided out of the reach of the summons of this Company

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for several years now last past, and hath not attended to his office and duty of an Assistant of this Company by appearing or assisting at any of the General Courts or Courts of Assistants for upwards of two years now last past."

Mr. N. Smith resigned at the Court Meeting held 2nd October, 1783, and Mr. Cox sent a letter "palliating" his offence but not resigning, and a member was requested to see him and report to the next Court, but Mr. Cox resigned on 5th January, 1784.

Until 1756 fines for taking office by Master and Wardens were paid on going out of office.

At a Court, 7th day of February, 1757, a motion was made that a reward of five pounds be offered to the person or persons who shall discover any journeyman hatter or other person who shall purloin or embezzle the "stuff" they shall be entrusted with, upon condition that such journeyman hatter or other person shall be convicted of such offence. The further consideration of this motion was adjourned to the next Court.

At the next Court this motion was taken into consideration and dropped. At this meeting it was ordered that when any person shall serve the office of Middle Warden for the Company he shall be allowed no more than four pounds toward the charge of his public dinner.

At a Court held in Pewterers Hall on Monday, 7th May, 1759, it is recorded: This Court having received information from Mr. Jackson that a Bill is now depending in the House of Commons entitled a Bill for the better preventing of the importation of the woollen manufactures of France into any of the ports in the Levant Sea by or on behalf of any of His Majesty's subjects, which if passed into law may in some measure

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prevent the importation of goats wool and prove detrimental to the members of this Company, took the same into consideration, but at present not being acquainted with the several clauses contained in the said Bill, it is therefore ordered that the Master and Upper Warden and Mr. Jackson do wait upon Mr. George Prescot and desire of him a copy of the said Bill, and this Court do adjourn to the Ship.

Men were occasionally summoned to and attended the Court to show why they carried on the business of hat making not being members of the Company—one example may suffice :

“ At a Court summoned and held at Pewterers Hall, Lime Street, on Monday, 2nd day of July, 1770, present—

Mr. Arnold, Master.

Mr. Sibley	} Wardens	Mr. H. F. Butler, Junr.
Mr. Dare		Mr. Doysey.

Ordered—That Thomas Bradley, of the Minories, London, be summoned to attend at the next General Court to shew cause why he carries on the trade of a Feltmaker without being a Freeman of this Company.”

The result was that at the Court held on 4th October, 1770, Thomas Bradley was admitted a Freeman and paid the fine.

12th day of November, 1759, the minutes were headed : Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London.

As an instance of the importance originally attached to the position of a member of the Court of Assistants, the following extract from the minutes is quoted :

At a General Quarterly Court, summoned and held at Pewterers Hall, in Lime Street, London, on Monday, the 5th day of April, 1784.

The Court being informed that Mr. Wagner,

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the late Master, had received a letter from Mr. Thomas Davies, one of the Assistants of this Company, intimating that on account of illness he desired the Court would finally dispense with his attendance, which being now read and the matter thereof debated, it was resolved that the Clerk do write to the said Mr. Davies an answer to his letter, acquainting him that the Court had taken the same into consideration and would excuse him therefrom on paying the usual fine of £30.

The gradual growth of an independence of the hatters and hat sellers to the control of the Company was in the latter part of the 18th Century beginning to be made manifest, for at the General Court held on Monday, 5th day of July, 1784, there appears the following :

Mr. Wagner then produced a memorial from the Committee appointed by the hatters for supporting an application to Parliament respecting the hat manufacturing, praying the support and pecuniary aid of this Company in carrying their intentions into execution. And a debate ensuing thereupon, a motion was made and seconded that it is the opinion of this Court, that in regard this Company were not applied to for their approbation of nor in anywise consulted by the said Committee touching the said application to Parliament they therefore do not think it in anywise incumbent on them to support the said application by their interest or pecuniary aid. This action appears to have caused a jealous feeling among the journeymen hatters, who then commenced the establishment of a Society which grew ultimately to become the "Silk and Felt Hatters Fair Trade Union."

The question of remission of fines for non-

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attendance at the Court Meetings of the Master and Wardens was before the Court Meeting on Thursday, the 7th day of October, 1784, when it was ordered that all remissions of the fines imposed by the 16th Bye-law on the Master and Wardens of this Company for non-attendance be henceforth discontinued, and that for the future the payment of the said fines be rigorously enforced.

At this same meeting it is interesting to note that one Miller Christy attended pursuant to a summons for that purpose, and being one of the people called Quakers was admitted and affirmed an Assistant of this Company in the room of Mr. Jackson deceased.

Proof Pieces.—A custom which existed for some years about the middle of the 18th Century was for many who had not previously been admitted to the Livery to submit to the Court their proof pieces in order to qualify them to be regarded as proper Feltmakers, and to be as such admitted to the Freedom and Livery. Frequent entries are to be found in the minutes about this period of this nature. The Liverymen of the Company appear, by several entries in the minutes, to have been required to wear gowns and caps, termed the "cloathing" of the said Company.

The principal possession of the Company, Sullens Farm, was let at Michaelmas, 1784, to a Mr. J. Russell; on March 4th, 1785, Mr. W. Russell, a brother, wrote to the Clerk asking to be allowed to purchase the farm from the Company.

The letter was read to the Court at their monthly meeting, the 7th day of March, 1785. The Clerk was directed to acknowledge the letter and say it should be considered at the

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next Court Meeting. It was then also ordered that the Clerk do search in the prerogative office in Doctors' Commons after the will of Mr. Machim, who devised Sullens Farm to this Company, and that he do procure an abstract of such part thereof as relates to the said devise so that the said next General Court may consider whether they have a power of disposing of the said farm. At the next General Court held on Monday, 4th of April, 1785, the Clerk informed the Court that he had searched after the will of Mr. Machim (pursuant to the order of the last Monthly Court) twice without being able to find the same.

Ordered—That the Master and Wardens be a Committee to search for and inspect the deeds, books and papers in the several boxes and chests belonging to this Company respecting Sullens Farm and that they be assisted by the Clerk on that occasion, and that they make a report of what they shall discover thereon at the next General Court. And it is further ordered that the Clerk in the meantime search in the Statutes at large made since the year 1769 to see whether any and what Act of Parliament hath been made which gives power to Corporations to dispose of their estates, and that he do make a report thereon at the next General Court.

At the General Quarterly Court held on Monday, 7th July, 1785, the Clerk reported that he had since the last Court searched in the Statutes at large made since the year 1769 to see if he could find whether any and what Act of Parliament hath been made which gives power to Corporations to dispose of their estates, but that he had not been able to find any such Act. The Committee appointed at the last Court to search for and inspect the deeds, etc., reported that the said

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Committee had met and proceeded upon the search last mentioned, and after much time spent therein had found in one of the said chests a book (beginning on or about the 9th day of August, 1692, and ending on or about September, 1753, entitled the Account Book of Old Sullings Farm, containing an account of the receipts and disbursements respecting the said farm) wherein was written an entry or extract from the will of Phillip Machim, deceased, who devised the said farm to this Company. And that the said Committee had perused the same, and having had the assistance and advice of the Clerk of this Company upon that occasion were of opinion that the said farm and lands called Sullings (in the said will particularly mentioned) were given to this Company as perpetual trustees for the uses and purposes therein mentioned. And that this Company have no power to sell, alien, or transfer or part with the said or any part thereof in any manner however. Which report this Court took into consideration, and it is ordered that the said report be and the same is approved and confirmed accordingly.

At this same General Court Thos. Moore, of 9, Sharps Buildings, Aldgate, Feltmaker, and many other Feltmakers, attended the Court and represented that they as Feltmakers, and also other persons who use and exercise the said trade and occupy large houses and premises and keep servants in and about their businesses at a great expense, living in good repute and conforming themselves to the laws and customs made and observed for the benefit of mankind, are of late (more than ever heretofore) much injured, and their laudable designs in prosecuting their business defeated and prevented, and in a

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great measure destroyed, by many persons who have no certain place of residence hawking and vending a prodigious number of hats without the authority of licences under the Act made in the last session of Parliament for that purpose, or without using any stamps on and about the hats they so illicitly dispose of, to the great injury and prejudice of the fair trader and also injury of His Majesty's revenue, and therefore earnestly supplicating and soliciting this Court to assist them with their aid, assistance, protection, and corporate braine in prosecuting to conviction those who shall be found offending therein, or in rendering such assistance to him, her, or them who prosecute to conviction those who shall be found offending herein, as this Court shall think proper.

Whereupon the said complainants were desired to withdraw and they did so accordingly, and then the Court proceeded to take their representation into consideration, and after debating thereon for a considerable time were unanimously of opinion that the said complaint was well founded in every respect, that the consequences thereof were very alarming to the fair trade in general and particularly to those residing within the jurisdiction of this Court, as also injurious to the revenue, and that some effectual steps ought to be taken in order to remedy the same. But in order to apply the most effectual remedy thereto the Court thought proper to adjourn the further consideration thereof until the next General Quarterly Court so that they might have time for that purpose.

Ordered—That the Clerk do procure the Act of Parliament above mentioned for laying a stamp duty on hatts and that he lay the same before



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the next General Quarterly Court, and in the meantime peruse and consider the same, to enable him to advise this Court of the most effectual method of punishing the said several offenders.

At the succeeding General Quarterly Court held in October, 1785 :

The complaint of Mr. Thos. Mason and others concerned in the Art or Mistery of Feltnaking, pursuant to the resolution of the last General Quarterly Court, and the Clerk presented to the Court the Acts of Parliament for laying a duty on hatts and on hawkers and pedlers, pursuant to an Order of the said Court, which they also took into consideration, and after debating thereon it was resolved that the Clerk do prepare and lay before the next General Court the draft of an advertisement to be published in such of the daily papers as the said next General Court shall approve and direct purporting that this Company have received credible information that many persons are guilty of illicit practices to evade paying the duty on hatts, which are highly injurious to the fair trader as well as a fraud upon His Majesty's revenue. That this Company are determined to prosecute all offenders, and that any information which may be a means of conviction will be received by the Clerk at the succeeding Court.

The proposed advertisement was submitted, and after certain alterations agreed to as follows :

Whereas the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers of London have received credible information that many persons who are not duly licenced to vend, utter, sell or expose to sale hatts subject to the stamp duties, and that many persons do purchase or receive in exchange for other articles hatts subject to the stamp duties without the

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stamp ticket being affixed thereto as by Act of Parliament is directed, and that many other persons have tickets affixed to hatts with a stamp or mark of less denomination or value than by such Act is directed.

The said Company knowing that such illicit practices are highly injurious to the fair trader and frauds upon His Majesty's revenue do hereby give notice that they are determined to prosecute all such offenders, and any information which may be the means of conviction will be received by their Clerk.

Ordered—That the Clerk do forthwith cause the preceding form of an advertisement to be inserted three times in the front of the four following newspapers, viz., "The Daily Advertiser," the "Morning Herald," the "Morning Post," and the "Morning Chronicle," once in each of the following three weeks.

At the same Court the following resolution appears :

"Resolved and Ordered unanimously that in future the Renter Warden of this Company do not pay to the members of this Court the rewards they may be severally entitled to receive for their punctual attendance upon any of the Courts of this Company until the Master for the time being shall have declared that the business of such Courts are finished."

Thus it would appear that even so far back as the 18th Century, when a small fee was paid for attendance at the Court Meetings, some of the Assistants were prone to leave before all the work was finished, which was unfair to their colleagues who remained and a practice that in this the 20th Century is of rare occurrence.

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The following interesting item also appears on the minutes of the same Court Meeting :

The Court received a message from Thomas Davies, one of the members thereof, by Mr. Luard, his attorney, purporting that the said Thomas Davies wished the Court would accept the several sums of £2 12s. and the costs of suing for the same in the Mayor's Court of London and thirty pounds five shillings and his resignation as one of the Assistants of this Company. And also that the Court would authorize, empower and direct the Master and Wardens of this Company to sign a paper having a six shilling stamp whereon was written a receipt or discharge and indemnity in the following words, viz. :

“We, the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers of London for and on behalf of and in the name of ourselves, as Master and Wardens of the said Company, and on behalf and in the name of the present Assistants of the said Company, do acknowledge to have received of Thomas Davies, of Nicholas Lane, London, Citizen and Feltmaker, the sum of £2 12s., being in full for all fines and forfeitures for not attending his duty as one of the Assistants of the said Company, and the further sum of 14s. 6d. for the costs of suing for the same, and the further sum of thirty pounds five shillings which is a fine for his being excused from further serving the Company as one of the Assistants thereof or any other office therein whatever. And we the said Master and Wardens for and on behalf of ourselves and the Assistants of this Company, and our and their successors, do acknowledge, declare, and agree that the said several sums are in full satisfaction for all claims and demands which we have on the said Thomas Davies, and that he shall therefore

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be excused from all further attendance on the Company and from serving any of the offices thereof and from all further payments expected or demanded on account of the same or on any account whatsoever. Witness our hands this sixth day of October, 1785."

Thus it will be seen that by the rules and orders of the Company, when once a member had taken upon himself the duties of a member of the Court of Assistants he could not lightly shirk the responsibility of office, nor could he shelter himself by a voluntary resignation therefrom. And it further appears that for some excellent reason those persons who carried on the business of Feltmakers could not be admitted to any other Livery Company for the purposes of becoming Freemen or Liverymen of the City of London, in proof of which the following extract from the minutes of the same Court held on 6th October, 1785, will suffice:—The Clerk informed the Court that he had attended the Chamberlain of London lately for and on behalf of this Company to shew cause why Richard Borradaile, of Fenchurch Street, Feltmaker, should be admitted a Freeman of this Company and not of the Drapers Company (which he has lately solicited to obtain), and that after a full hearing of John Smith, Esq., his solicitor, and of Messrs. Harris and others of the Feltmaking Trade in support of the said Borradaile's claim and of him the Clerk for and on behalf of this Company, the Chamberlain had solemnly declared that he would not admit the said Richard Borradaile to the Freedom of the City of London in any other Company than the Feltmakers Company. And that it appeared on the above-mentioned hearing that the original Charter of this Company granted by King James the First

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was necessary to be then and there produced, which he had searched for with great diligence amongst the several books of this Company, but without effect.

And also that it appeared that the other Charter which was granted by King Charles the Second to this Company was not enrolled in the Town Clerk's office amongst the records of this City.

Ordered—That the Clerk do search in the proper office for enrolling the Charters of Corporations in the Court of Chancery for the original Charter above mentioned and do report to the next General Court whether he is able to find the same. And it was ordered that the Clerk do enquire whether it is necessary to have the Charter (which was granted by King Charles the Second to this Company) enrolled in the said Town Clerk's office, and if he shall find it necessary it is ordered that he make a report thereof to the next Court and that the Master and Wardens do thereupon order him to procure such Charter to be properly enrolled with all convenient dispatch, and that the Renter Warden of this Company do pay to him the expense thereof.

At the General Quarterly Court held on Monday, the 9th day of January, 1786, the Clerk reported: That he had searched for and found an inrollement of the original Charter granted by King James the First to this Company pursuant to the order of the last General Court, and that it would be useful and necessary to have an office copy of such Charter to produce on any dispute or litigation before the Chamberlain of London respecting persons entitled to the Freedom of this Company or upon any action commenced for or against this Company. It is therefore resolved and ordered that the Master and Wardens be a Committee

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to search for the said last-mentioned Charter among the books and papers belonging to this Company, and if they shall find the same or any copy thereof it is ordered that they do make a report therein to the next General Court, and if they cannot find the same or any copy thereof it is further ordered that the Clerk do search for an inrollement thereof in the Town Clerk's office of this City, and if the same shall not appear to be inrolled there it is further ordered that the Clerk do take the proper measures to obtain an attested copy thereof from the proper office in the Court of Chancery and that the Renter Warden of this Company shall thereupon re-imburse him the expenses thereof. At the next General Court held on Monday, the 3rd day of April, 1786, the Master reported that the Committee appointed at the last General Quarterly Court to search for the original Charter granted by King James the First to this Company had met twice for that purpose but could not find the same, they had employed much care and diligence on that occasion. It is therefore ordered that the Clerk do procure an office copy thereof from the Rolls in the Court of Chancery and that the Renter Warden do reimburse him the expenses thereof. (Great doubt exists as to whether this copy was ever obtained.)

About the latter part of the 18th Century the spirit of freetrading in hats as well as of other commercial commodities appears to have begun, and objections to be compelled to become Liverymen of this Company and in some instances even Freemen of the City through this Company arose among those who were desirous of carrying on the business of Feltmakers or vendors of hats, for at the Quarterly General Court held on Monday, the 3rd day of July, 1786, it was ordered that the

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Clerk do forthwith sue James Lobham, of Bermondsey Street, in Southwark, Feltmaker, for the forfeiture due from him to this Company for his not taking upon him the Livery of this Company pursuant to his election and notice for that purpose ; and a similar order was made at the same Court on one Thomas Brauson, of 36, Lombard Street, London. At the same meeting Mr. Richard Lake, a member of this Company, attended and complained to the Court of very great injury which he had sustained for some time past by means of a combination of journeymen hatmakers, and he informed the Court that he had lately obtained a verdict of one hundred pounds besides costs of suit against one Andrew White, a journeyman hatmaker, one of the members of the said combination, which he had great reason to fear would not be attended with the desired effect so as to defeat and destroy such combination without the countenance, interference, and support of this Company in their corporate name and by their pecuniary assistance ; when after debating thereon it was unanimously resolved that it is fit, proper, and necessary that this Company should aid, assist and protect the Feltmaking Trade and particularly the members of this Company against every innovation in their corporate name and by their pecuniary assistance towards defeating and destroying the above-mentioned or any such combination, and therefore it is unanimously ordered that the Clerk do forthwith wait upon the Recorder of London and Mr. Serjeant Cross to desire him to appoint a time and place for a Committee of this Company to wait upon them to consult and advise with them on the best and most effectual methods to be pursued by this Company to

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accomplish the above-mentioned purposes ; and it is hereby further ordered that the Master for the time being together with Mr. Cox and Mr. Christy be such Committee and the Clerk do attend them on such consultation, and that the said Committee do order the Clerk to carry into execution what shall appear on such consultation to be the best and most effectual method to compleat the above-mentioned purposes. And it is further ordered that the Renter Warden of this Company for the time being do from time to time pay to the Clerk such charges and expenses as shall be incurred in and about the same or anything relating thereto.

At the General Quarterly Court held on Monday, the 2nd day of October, 1786 :

Mr. Cox, one of the Committee appointed at the last General Quarterly Court to consult and advise with Mr. Recorder and Mr. Serjeant Cross, reported that such Committee had met and consulted with them, and that the purport of their advice was for this Company to collect evidence of the combination of journeymen hat makers and to proceed against the persons so offending by information or indictment in the Court of King's Bench. And that it was highly expedient and most fitting for this Company to proceed against all or any of such persons to defeat and destroy such combinations and particularly to protect the members of this Company from every such innovation. Whereupon it was unanimously resolved that this Court do approve of such advice, and it is ordered that the Committee appointed at the last said General Quarterly Court be continued with the same powers and authorities in every respect as were then given to them, and they are hereby desired to use every



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proper means to accomplish those ends ; and it is further ordered that the Renter Warden for the time being do pay to the Clerk such charges and expenses as shall be incurred in and about the same or anything relating thereto. It was thus evident that the journeymen hatters of that time were beginning to cause trouble with the masters, which in the end culminated in the 19th Century by the establishment of the Trade Union of Hatters, which at the time of writing this history exists and is known as the Fair Trade Union of Silk and Felt Hatters, but is by no means a powerful organization such as other Trade Unions whose names are well known to the public.

At a Special General Court held on Monday, the 5th day of February, 1787, the Clerk reported to the Court that the Clothmakers Company of London had lately petitioned the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen for an increase of their Livery, which they had obtained, and that he had since discovered an Order of that Court, dated the 13th day of November, 1733, which he now read to the Court in the words following, viz. :

Billors, Mayor. The first Court held on Tuesday, the 13th day of November, 1733, and in the seventeenth year of the reign of King George the Second of Great Britain, etc.

This day the Committee who were appointed the twenty-third day of October last to examine the petition of the Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London praying to be made a Livery Company of this City did deliver into this Court a report in writing under their hands touching the same, which was read in these words :

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor and the Court of Aldermen.

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In obedience to an order of this Honourable Court of the twenty-third day of October last, we whose names are subscribed, being appointed (amongst others) to examine the allegations of the petition of the Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London relating to their being made a Livery Company of this City and to report the same together with our opinions thereon to this Court, do humbly certify that we have accordingly met and examined into the allegations of their said petition and do find that they were first incorporated by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of England bearing date the second day of August in the second year of King James the First by the name of Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of the City of London. That on the twenty-third day of July, 1650, they were by this Court admitted a Free Company of this City, and their said Charter was enrolled among the Records of this Court. That on the first of July, 1658, the Court of Common Council passed an Act in their favour to oblige all persons using the said Art of Feltmaking to be free of their Company. That they have since obtained a subsequent Charter of Grant and Confirmation bearing date the 27th day of June in the 19th year of King Charles the Second by the name of the Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London. By which Charters and Orders of this Court and Common Council it doth appear that the said Art of Feltmaking is a necessary and useful occupation and handycraft, and as we are informed there are divers eminent and worthy citizens that are free of that Company and no other of a sufficient number to make up a compleat Livery.

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We are therefore of opinion that it will be of benefit to the said Company and encouragement to their trade, and an advantage to the public in that it will oblige and render their members capable to contribute and assist on all public occasions to the state and service of this City, that they be treated and made a Livery Company of this City. And that the said Livery be granted unto them under the Qualifications and Conditions following (that is to say): That no member of this Company who is of the Clothing of any other Company of this City shall be called on the Livery of their Company before he be translated from such other Company openly in this Court according to the antient custom, and that they be enjoined to a constant attendance upon the Lord Mayor for the time being upon all publick solemnities, and that their last Charter and bye-laws shall be enrolled among the Records of this Court, and that their said Livery shall not any time exceed sixty in number. All which nevertheless we humbly submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court. Dated 1st day of November, 1733.

John Williams.  
Robert Alsop.  
John Barnard.  
Mirazah Perry.  
John Salter.

Which was well liked, approved of, and confirmed by this Court, and ordered to be entered in the Repertory, and in all things performed. And it is further ordered that the attorneys in the outer Court do take care that precepts be for the future sent to the said Company of Feltmakers on all occasions as to other Livery Companies of this City.—“JACKSON.”

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And the Clerk further represented to the Court that on his perusing the before-written order he had inspected the list of the Livery of this Company, and that he apprehended there were a greater number of persons on the said Livery than were allowed by the said order. Whereupon the Court immediately took the same into consideration, and after debating thereon:

Resolved unanimously that it will be proper and necessary for this Company to petition the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen of this City as soon as possible praying them to grant an increase of the number of the Livery of this Company beyond the number of sixty mentioned in the before-written order, and that the Master and Wardens together with Mr. Cox, Mr. Hall, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Snow and such other members of this Court as choose to attend be a Committee to manage the business of the said petition and to carry the same into effect, which they are desired to do forthwith.

Resolved—That the above Committee do place the Common Seal of this Company to the said petition and that the Clerk do sign the same, and the said Committee are desired to meet on Tuesday next at this Hall at ten o'clock in the forenoon for the above-mentioned purposes. And it is ordered that the Clerk do draw up the draft of a petition to lay before the said Committee at their intended meeting for their approbation thereof, and that the said Committee be at liberty to meet and adjourn from time to time as they shall see occasion.

Ordered—That the Renter Warden of this Company do from time to time pay the expenses of such Committee and also the expenses of procuring the said petition to be carried into effect.

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The several opinions of Mr. Bearcroft and Mr. Gibbs respecting the right of this Company to compel persons who exercise the trade of a Feltmaker or anything thereunto appertaining residing within London or four miles thereof to pay quarterage, and on the propriety of continuing to hold the General Quarterly Assemblys of this Company and other points submitted to them, were now read, and after considering and debating thereon it was unanimously resolved that the propriety of continuing to hold the said General Quarterly Assemblys be referred to the above-mentioned Committee, who, if they shall see occasion, are hereby directed to order the Clerk to summon a Special General Court on Monday, the fifth day of March next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, to receive their report thereon and other matters before referred to them.

Resolved—That the Clerk do endeavour to obtain the best information respecting the Judgment of the Court of Common Pleas upon a Demurrer to be argued before them respecting the validity of one of the by-laws of the Butchers Company, and do make a report thereon to the said Committee at their next meeting after obtaining the said information.

At the General Quarterly Court held on Monday, the 2nd day of April, 1787 :

Mr. Cox reported to the Court the proceedings of the Committee appointed at the last Special General Court, which were to the following purport, viz. :

That the Clerk had produced to such Committee the draft of a petition prepared by him to the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen pursuant to the order of the last said Special General Court, setting forth—

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That on the twenty-third day of November, 1733, a petition of the Master, Wardens and Commonalty of this Company was presented to that Court, which after reciting several parts of the Charters of the said Company prayed that they might be constituted a Livery Company under such regulations and restrictions as to that Court should seem meet.

That such Court did on the same day refer the said petition to a Committee of their Court to examine the allegations and report their opinions thereon. That on the thirteenth November following the said Committee reported that it was their opinion the prayer of the said petition should be complied with, and such Court was pleased to approve and confirm the said report, and the said Company was constituted and appointed one of the Livery Companies of this City accordingly, which was limited to the number of sixty. That the Petitioners had a considerable number of very respectable Freemen of their said Company who were of the trade of their said Art or Mistery and who were prohibited by an Act of the Common Council from being admitted into any other Company. That by an Act of Parliament passed in the seventeenth year of the reign of His present Majesty (which repeals all former Acts in restraint of their said trade and gives liberty to any person to carry on the same and to take any number of apprentices) the Petitioners had the number of their Freemen much increased beyond the number of preceding years and had frequent applications from such Freemen to be admitted on the Livery of their said Company. That the Petitioners had lately inspected the list of their Livery and were apprehensive the same was

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increased beyond the said number of sixty allowed by the said order, notwithstanding which the Petitioners had always found such list insufficient in number to select proper persons to fill the several offices of this Company. That on finding such increase and for the reasons aforesaid the Petitioners had resolved to petition the said Court of Aldermen humbly praying an increase of their said Livery, and therefore humbly praying them to take the premises into consideration and grant an increase to the number of the Livery of this Company and in such manner and for the honour and dignity of this City as such Court should think proper. Which petition the Committee had affixed the Common Seal of this Company and the same was signed by the Clerk, and that they had directed their Clerk to make copies thereof, which had been delivered to every Alderman. And such petition was presented by the said Committee in their Livery Gowns, attended by the Clerk and Beadle in their respective Habits, to the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen on the twentieth day of March last, who immediately referred the same to a Committee of the whole Court, and that such Committee of the Court of Aldermen had met for that purpose on the twenty-seventh day of March last and agreed to the prayer thereof, under and subject to the following conditions and restrictions, viz. :

“That the number of the said Livery should be increased from Sixty to One Hundred and Twenty, that the Livery Fine should in future be raised from the present Fine of Ten Guineas to Fifteen Pounds, and that the Master and Wardens of this Company should deliver into the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen at their

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Court to be held next after Lady Day in every year a list of the Livery of this Company."

Mr. Cox further reported that the said Committee had taken into consideration the propriety of continuing to hold the General Assembly, pursuant to the order of the last Special General Court, and that the Clerk had informed them that he had inquired and found that the Judgment of the Court of Common Pleas (upon a Demurrer to be argued before them respecting the validity of a by-law of the Butchers Company) was deferred until the ensuing Easter Term, and that the said Committee had resolved unanimously that the Clerk should summon the members of this Court to attend the Quarterly General Assembly held this day at the usual time to hold such Assembly, and that he should not cause printed summonses to be delivered in the manner heretofore done but should convene the same by the usual advertisements to be previously published by him in one of the daily papers for that purpose.

Mr. Cox further reported that the said Committee had taken into consideration the present commercial treaty now pending with the Court of Portugal, and had resolved that it would be proper for such Committee (for and in the corporate name of this Company) to present a memorial to the Right Honourable William Pitt, First Lord of His Majesty's Treasury, praying that the interest of the Hatt Manufacturers might be attended to in the treaty now pending with that Court, and that they had directed the Clerk to draw up such memorial, which he had done accordingly (and which memorial and the proceedings thereon are set forth more fully in the Committee Book); and that they had



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affixed the Common Seal of this Company thereto and had further resolved that the Clerk should make copies thereof to send to a principal Hatt Manufacturer resident in the City of Bristol and in the Town of Manchester and Newcastle under Line for him (Mr. Cox) to write to such Hatt Manufacturers inclosing such copies and desiring them to convene the trade of their respective city and towns to agree to a similar memorial to be presented to the said Mr. Pitt as soon as possible praying that the interests of the Hatt Manufacturers may be attended to in the treaty now pending with Portugal, which he had done accordingly, and had received from Messrs. Phillips & Co. at Manchester a very polite letter of thanks to this Company and to the Hat Manufacturers residing in London for their care and attention to the interests of the said trade, and also a copy of a memorial (both of which are entered in the said Committee Book) presented to the said Mr. Pitt by Mr. Blackbourn, one of the Members of Parliament for Lancashire, who had promised to pay every attention thereto.

Mr. Cox also further reported that the memorial of this Company before mentioned had been presented to the said Mr. Pitt by Mr. Alderman Watson, one of the representatives of this City in Parliament (agreeable to the alderman's advice), and that Mr. Pitt had promised to pay every attention thereto as well as to the interests of the Hatt Manufacturers in general.

That he had seen a Mr. Harding, one of the principal Hattmakers of Newcastle under Line, who informed him that the Hattmakers of that town had drawn and sent up to Mr. McDonald (the Solicitor-General), one of their representatives in Parliament, a memorial of the like import as

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the foregoing memorials, and that he (Mr. Cox) had since seen the said Mr. McDonald, who appeared to be convinced of the propriety thereof and promised his utmost support thereto, and that the before-named Alderman Watson had sent to him a letter in the words following, viz. :

Manchester Buildings,  
11 March, 1787.

Sir,

I beg you will have the goodness to offer my compliments to the Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London, and inform them that I yesterday presented their memorial, which states their right to send hatts to Portugal, to Mr. Pitt. He received it as a paper meriting consideration and promised the subject should have due attention paid it.

I am, Sir,  
Your faithful humble Servant,  
BROOK WATSON.

— Cox, Esq.,  
Tooley Street.

Mr. Cox further reported that the said Committee had resolved that it would be proper to summon the principal persons of the Hatt Manufactory resident in and near London to meet the said Committee to obtain their concurrence in support of the before-mentioned memorial, and that such meeting had been held, when he acquainted the meeting that the said Committee had presented to Mr. Pitt the before-mentioned memorial, which was read to them and also the said letter and copy of memorial received from the said Messrs. Phillips & Co. at Manchester. And that such meeting had resolved that there was

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not then any necessity to present to Mr. Pitt any other memorial, and that this Company merited the thanks of the Hatt Manufacturers in general for their care and attention to the interests of the said manufactory:

Ordered—That the Clerk do continue to summon the Quarterly General Assembly to be held on the days mentioned in the bye-laws at the hour of eleven of the clock in the forenoon in the manner this day done, and that he convene the several Feltmakers (resident within the limits mentioned in the Charter and bye-laws) by advertisement only and not by personal summons.

Resolved unanimously that this Court do entirely approve and confirm the proceedings of the Committee respecting the memorial presented to Mr. Pitt on the part of this Company and also the directions of such Committee for Mr. Cox to apply to a principal Hatt Manufacturer residing in the City of Bristol and in the towns of Manchester and Newcastle under Line as well as every other measure relating thereto. And it is ordered that the Renter Warden do pay the expenses occasioned thereby.

Resolved unanimously that such Committee merit the thanks of this Company for their care and attention therein.

Resolved unanimously that the thanks of this Court be presented to Mr. Alderman Watson, one of the representatives of this City in Parliament, for the polite and friendly attention which he has shown to this Company by presenting to Mr. Pitt their memorial relating to the treaty now pending with Portugal, and that they entreat permission to solicit his further services for the attainment of so beneficial an object to the Hatt Trade of this kingdom.

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Resolved—That the Clerk do copy and sign the above resolution, and that Mr. Cox and Mr. Jackson, two of the members of this Court, do wait on Mr. Alderman Watson therewith.

At the General Quarterly Court held on Monday, 2nd day of July, 1787, the Clerk reported that the vote of thanks had been duly presented to Mr. Alderman Watson, and further reported that he had attended the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen held on the 3rd day of April last, when such Court was pleased to make an order for an increase of the Livery of this Company, a copy of which he now presented and read to the Court, which is in the words following, viz. :  
Sainsbury, Mayor.

Tuesday, the 3rd day of April and in the twenty-seventh year in the reign of King George the 3rd. The Committee appointed by this Court the twentieth of March last to examine the allegations of the petition of the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Company of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London praying an increase to the number of their Livery, did this day deliver into this Court a report in writing under their hands, which was read in these words, viz. :

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen.

In obedience to an order of this Honourable Court of the 20th day of March, 1787, we whose names are hereunto subscribed, being appointed (among others) to examine the allegations of the petition of the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Company of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London praying an increase to the number of their Livery and to report our opinions thereon to this Court, do humbly certify that we have accordingly met and examined into the

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allegations of their said petition, and do find that on the 23rd day of October, 1733, a petition of the said Company of Feltmakers was presented to this Court which, after reciting several parts of their Charters, prayed that they might be allowed and constituted a Livery Company of this City. That this Court on the 13th November following did approve and confirm the report of the Committee (to whom the said petition was referred) and did order that they should be treated and made a Livery Company of this City, and that the said Livery be granted unto them under the qualifications and conditions following, (that is to say) That no member of their Company who is of the cloathing of any other Company of this City shall be called on the Livery of their Company before he be translated from such other Company openly in this Court according to the antient custom of this City. That they be enjoined to a constant attendance upon the Lord Mayor for the time being upon all public solemnities. That their last Charter and bye-laws should be enrolled among the records of this Court and that their Livery should not at any time exceed sixty in number.

It further appears to your Committee that there are a considerable number of very respectable Freemen of the said Company of Feltmakers who follow that trade and are prohibited by an Act of the Common Council made and passed the 6th day of June, 1759, from being admitted into any other Company. That by an Act of Parliament passed in the 17th year of the reign of His present Majesty (which repeals all former Acts in restraint of their said trade and gives liberty to any person to carry on the same and to take

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any number of apprentices) the number of the Freemen of the said Company hath much increased beyond the number of any preceding years, and that frequent applications have been made by such Freemen to be admitted on the Livery of the said Company. And on an inspection being made into the list of the Livery by the Petitioners the same appeared to have been increased beyond the said number of sixty as allowed by this Court, notwithstanding which they have found such list insufficient in number to select the proper persons to fill the several offices of this Company. After duly considering thereof it does appear to your Committee that the complying with the prayer of their petition will be beneficial to the said Company by encouraging and promoting the increase of their members. We are therefore of opinion that the number of their Livery should be increased to one hundred and twenty and shall not at any time exceed the same. That their Livery fine be sett at the sum of fifteen pounds sterling instead of ten pounds ten shillings as settled by their bye-laws and which they now receive. And that the Master and Wardens of the said Company of Feltmakers for the time being do return annually on the twenty-fifth day of March to the Town Clerk's office a list of their Livery with their places of abode.

All which we submit to this Honourable Court this twenty-eighth day of March, 1787.

Brass Crosby.

William Gill.

William Pickett.

John Boydel.

John Hopkins.

Jas. Sanderson.

Paul le Mesurier.

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And a motion being made and question put that this Court doth agree with the said Committee in their said report, the same was resolved in the affirmative and ordered accordingly.  
Rix, Town Clerk.

At a General Court held at Pewterers Hall, Lime Street, on Thursday, the 4th day of October, 1787, after the usual business the Court took into consideration laying the present bye-laws before some Counsellor learned in the law for him to peruse and to form a new code therefrom more concordant with the present time and with some alterations indispensably made therein, and after debating thereon it was resolved that the further consideration thereof be adjourned until the next General Quarterly Court and that in the interim the Clerk do endeavour to procure the best information he can whether upon similar alterations in other Companies of the City of London respecting their bye-laws such Companies have been obliged to have new bye-laws.

At the next General Quarterly Court held on Monday the 7th day of January, 1788, the Clerk reported that in pursuance of the resolution of the last General Court he had enquired whether upon the alterations indispensably made in the bye-laws of this Company it would be necessary to have new bye-laws, and that the advice he had received on such application was "That it would be necessary," whereupon the Court took the same into consideration and after debating thereon it was unanimously resolved that it will be proper to appoint a Committee to consider the best means for this Company to pursue, on the last above-mentioned occasion.

Ordered—That the Master, Wardens, together

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with Mr. Hall, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Cox, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Christy, together with such other members of this Court as choose to attend, be such Committee, and that they do meet on Monday the fourth day of February next at eleven o'clock in the forenoon in this Hall, and at such other subsequent times and places as they shall think proper and necessary for the above-mentioned purpose. Resolved and Ordered—That the Renter Warden of this Company do from time to time pay the expenses of such Committee.

The next item of importance to be recorded is that at a General Quarterly Court held at Pewterers Hall, Lime Street, on Monday, 7th day of April, 1788, Mr. Cox reported to the Court that the Committee appointed at the last General Quarterly Court to consider the propriety of obtaining new bye-laws for this Company had met and (after maturely considering the same) resolved that it was fully expedient and absolutely necessary for this Company to have a new code of bye-laws properly prepared and duly established as soon as possible.

Which report was now taken into consideration and, after debating thereon, it was Resolved that this Court do agree with the said Committee in their said report, and it was further Resolved and Ordered that such new code of bye-laws be prepared and established as soon as possible and that the Master and Wardens, together with Mr. Hall, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Cox, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Christy and such other members of this Court as choose to attend be a Committee to prepare and establish such bye-laws, and that they do meet on Monday the 5th day of May next at 10 o'clock in the forenoon at this Hall, and at such other subsequent times and places as they



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shall think proper and necessary for that purpose. It was then Resolved and Ordered that the Renter Warden of this Company do from time to time pay the expenses of preparing and establishing such bye-laws, and also of such Committee.

At a General Quarterly Court held on Monday the 7th day of July, 1788, the Clerk read to the Court the minutes of the several meetings of the Committee appointed at the last General Quarterly Court to prepare and establish new bye-laws for this Company, purporting that the said Committee had perused and considered such bye-laws and had made several alterations therein, and that the said Committee had resolved that several of the bye-laws were inefficient and not at all calculated for or suitable with the present state of the Feltmakers trade and therefore ought to be omitted.

Resolved and Ordered unanimously that this Court doth approve of the proceedings of the said Committee and the same is hereby confirmed accordingly.

Resolved and Ordered unanimously that the Clerk do endeavour to obtain the copies of two or three other Companies' bye-laws as soon as possible, and that the said last-mentioned Committee is desired to proceed with all suitable dispatch in obtaining and establishing such new bye-laws, and the said Committee is hereby desired and empowered to employ one or more Counsel learned in the law which they shall think proper and necessary towards obtaining and establishing the said bye-laws.

Resolved—That the Renter Warden for the time being do pay the charges and expenses of obtaining and establishing such bye-laws, and

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also the expenses of the said Committee and what may be done in pursuance of their directions.

It may here be interesting to quote from the minutes of the General Court for election of Master and Wardens held on Thursday the 2nd day of October, 1788, a custom that has been allowed to lapse. The following is the record :

Mr. Hall, one of the Committee appointed to nominate proper persons to serve the office of Steward for this Company on the next Lord Mayor's Day, reported from the said Committee that they had caused William Tremain, William Webb, Joseph Player and Richard Guyer to be summoned to attend them to undertake to serve the said office, and that the said Joseph Player had attended and paid the usual fine to be excused from serving the said office. That Mr. Banghan, one of the Assistants of this Company, had attended for and on the part and behalf of the said Richard Guyer, who had authorized him to assure the said Committee he would serve the said office the present year, and that the said William Tremain and William Webb had severally attended and stated it would not suit them to serve the office the present year and they therefore earnestly prayed this Court to excuse them therefrom.

Whereupon it is resolved that the said William Tremain and William Webb be excused from serving the said office the present year, and the Court requested Mr. John Bracewell, one of the Assistants of this Court, to execute the office of one of the said Stewards at the expense of this Company jointly with the said Richard Guyer, who is to serve the said office at his own expense.

It is therefore ordered that the said John Bracewell and Richard Guyer be, and they are hereby elected and chosen to be, Stewards for

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the making and providing of a dinner for the Master, Wardens, Assistants and Liverymen of this Company on the ninth day of November next, being the day on which the Lord Mayor of London elect will take the usual Oaths at Westminster to qualify him for his office. And that the Clerk do deliver to each of the said Stewards a bill of such fare as hath been customary on the like occasions ten days at the least before the said day, and that the said dinner be at the King's Head Tavern in the Poultry, London.

Ordered—That such expenses as the said John Bracewell shall incur by serving the said office shall be repaid him by the Renter Warden of this Company.

It is thus evident that, failing the obtaining of Stewards willing to serve and bear the heavy expense, the Company would pay the cost of the dinner from its own funds.

At the same General Quarterly Court the Clerk informed the Court that he had sent the different papers (necessary by way of instructions for a Counsel to prepare a draft of a new code of bye-laws) to Mr. Gibbs at Gunby Hall, near Spilsby in Lincolnshire, agreeable to his desire, the present vacation being the most suitable time for him to draw and maturely consider the said bye-laws.

At a General Quarterly Court held at Pewterers Hall, on Monday, 6th day of April, 1789, the Clerk informed the Court that the said Mr. Hall, together with Mr. Alexander and Mr. Christy, had attended a consultation with the Recorder of London and Mr. Gibbs respecting the intended bye-laws, and that it was then and there concluded and agreed that the Clerk should lay before Mr. Recorder the papers which had been laid

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by this Company before the said Mr. Gibbs for his perusal, advice and correction in conjunction with the said Mr. Gibbs.

At a Court Meeting on Monday, 2nd November, 1789, the Clerk produced to the Court a special precept from the Lord Mayor of this City which he had received from Mr. Rix, the Town Clerk, requiring this Company to attend in due order in the procession on the ensuing Lord Mayor's Day agreeable to ancient usage, and Mr. Norville, one of the Wardens, having informed the Court that he had lately had an opportunity of conversing with the Rt. Hon. Wm. Pirkett, Esq. (the Lord Mayor-elect), on the subject of the said precept, when his Lordship informed him that it was his intention to use every legal measure and to do all in his power to compel all the Livery Companies of this City to attend the Lord Mayor on the said day in future.

The Court took the above information into consideration, and after debating thereon resolved that the said Mr. Norville and the Clerk for and in the name of this Company do this afternoon wait upon the Lord Mayor (elect) and in the most respectful manner represent to him that it is impracticable for this Company to comply with the said precept at present, not only on account of the shortness of time (between this day and Monday next) to provide the things necessary to accommodate the Company on that occasion, but because the Company are not at present well enabled to sustain the expenses thereof. That they do request His Lordship's favourable report respecting this Company (in any notice which he may think proper to take of those Companies who do not attend the said procession) to the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen

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of this City, and that they do report what they shall do hereon to the next General Quarterly Court.

Fines for not serving as Assistant.—It is convenient here to quote from the minutes of the Court held 11th January, 1790, a record of the serious importance of serving as a member of the Court of Assistants, which was then attached to the office, which runs as follows :

Mr. Christy, one of the members of this Court, for and on behalf of Joseph Storrs (who was summoned to attend here this day to take upon him the office of one of the Assistants of this Company), desired the Court to accept of and from the said Joseph Storrs the usual sum of thirty pounds and five shillings as a fine to be excused from serving the said office.

Resolved—That the said sum of thirty pounds and five shillings be accepted (which was paid accordingly) and that the said Joseph Storrs be discharged from serving the said office of an Assistant of this Company.

Reverting to the request of the Lord Mayor-elect on November 2nd, 1789, that the Company should attend the procession on the 9th of that month : At the Court Meeting held on 11th January, 1790, Mr. Norville, who (with the Clerk) on the 2nd day of November last was desired to wait upon the present Lord Mayor to represent to him the incapacity of this Company to obey His Lordship's precept and attend the procession on the then ensuing Lord Mayor's Day, informed the Court that he (attended by the Clerk) had waited on the said Lord Mayor, who was pleased to say he should not represent anything to the Court of Aldermen respecting the default of this Company in particular, but

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respecting the Companies in general who should disobey the precept to attend on that day.

At a Court Meeting held on Monday, 2nd day of August, 1790, it was ordered that the Clerk do procure the old rough Minute Book (containing minutes from the 7th day of September, 1761, to the 7th day of January, 1788, both inclusive), and also the present Committee Book (beginning the 17th day of August, 1743), to be properly bound in rough calf and also to be clasped and lettered.

It was also resolved that the Clerk do purchase a large handsome book to be bound in calf and lettered to enter fair therein the minutes of this Company.

At a General Court held on Thursday the 7th day of October, 1790, among various other items of business, it was ordered that the Bye-laws Committee do meet to revise their proceedings, to examine the bye-laws as returned perused by Mr. Serjeant Adair and Mr. Gibbs, and report their opinion thereon to the next General Quarterly Court.

At a General Quarterly Court held on Monday the 4th day of April, 1791, the Clerk presented to the Court a painting of King Charles the Second in an oval gilt frame, which the Court were pleased to accept.

Ordered—That Mr. Josiah Allen of Tooley Street, Southwark, painter (one of the Liverymen of this Company), do paint the Arms of this Company upon a canvas, in an oval gilt frame similar to the above-mentioned frame.

An interesting minute appears as follows: At a General Quarterly Court held on the 2nd day of April, 1792, it was ordered that this Court do dine together at the expense of this

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Company, on the day the next General Quarterly Court will be held, at the "Green Man" on Blackheath, and that the reward usually paid to each member for their punctual attendance be not paid on that day.

At a General Quarterly Court held on Monday the 14th day of January, 1793, the following appears in the minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. Wagner, That the Master, Wardens and Assistants of this Company do (by a public advertisement to be inserted in some of the public newspapers) testify they think it their duty at this juncture to declare their zealous and firm attachment to the excellent and happy constitution of these Kingdoms and Government, by King, Lords and Commons upon the principles established at the Glorious Revolution of 1688. Which after being taken into consideration was resolved in the affirmative unanimously and the form of an advertisement to the purport above mentioned was drawn and approved by the Court.

Resolved and Ordered unanimously that the Clerk do sign and insert the same in the following newspapers as soon as possible, viz., "The Star," "The Morning Chronicle," "The St. James Chronicle" and "The Times."

At a General Court held on Thursday the 2nd day of October, 1794, at the election of Master, Wardens, Clerk and Beadle, it is evident that some trouble had arisen, because it is recorded that John Hall was elected Clerk. It is evident that James Bliss of Tooley Street had not died, for at the Quarterly General Court held on Monday, 13th April, 1795, it was Ordered: The Clerk to wait upon Mr. Bliss, the late Clerk, and demand of him every paper or book belonging

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to this Company. Then follows: Resolved—That the Court will dine together at Highbury House, Islington, on the day the next General Quarterly Court will be held, and that the Master and Wardens, together with Mr. Snow, do order the same; no mention here being made of the Clerk co-operating.

At a Court held on Monday the 5th day of June, 1797, appears on the minutes the following peculiar record: The Public Seal of this Company for divers causes and considerations was fixed to a Deed, thereby acquitting, releasing and discharging John Hall, Citizen and Feltmaker of London, of and from his Freedom in this Commonalty or Company and of and from all other offices, duties, charges, payments and things whatsoever relating thereto or whereto he now stands engaged by virtue of any charter, bye-laws, ordinances, or other matter or things whatsoever and so as of and from the same he shall and may at all times hereafter be fully and absolutely discharged.

At a General Court held on Thursday the 5th day of October, 1797, appears the following record on the minutes, viz.: It having been reported to this Court that a great quantity of hats and caps were sold by unlicensed dealers, and without stamps, made of silk, straw and leather, to the great prejudice of the hat manufactory and to the diminution of the revenue of the Kingdom, Resolved—That a memorial be sent by this Company to the Rt. Hon. The Chancellor of the Exchequer requesting that such hats and caps might be subject to the same duties as beaver or stuff hats, and that the Master, Wardens and any of the Assistants be a Committee to prepare and present the same.

With regard to the land tax on Sullens Farm,



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at a Court Meeting held on Thursday the 4th day of October, it was ordered that the Clerk write to the tenant of Sullens Farm to know the amount of the land tax on the same, and that the Master and Wardens be and hereby empowered to agree for the purchase of the same. At the following Court, held on Monday the 3rd day of December, 1798, the Clerk reported that he had waited upon Wm. Stubbs, Esq., tenant of Sullens Farm, who informed him that the land tax on the same was £6 per annum. The Court, taking into consideration the order of the General Court of the 4th day of October empowering the Master and Wardens to agree for the purchase of the land tax on Sullens Farm, and being unanimously of opinion that it was not to the interest of this Company to purchase, agreed to report the same to the next General Court.

At a Court Meeting held at the Pewterers Hall, on Thursday the 7th day of October, 1802, there appears on the minutes the following, viz. : The Worshipful Company of Pewterers having let their hall to a packer, and the house they are about removing to being thought not convenient, it was unanimously agreed that for the future this Company do hold their Courts at Guildhall.

At a Court held at Guildhall on Monday, 5th day of March, 1804, the minutes relate that the Master and Wardens, together with Mr. Snow, Mr. Norville, Mr. Bliss and Mr. Leuthwaite, are appointed a Committee to survey the estate at Corbet Stye and to make a report of the same at the next General Court. This presumably referred to Sullens Farm, because at the General Quarterly Court held on Monday, 2nd day of July, 1804, the minutes record that the Master as one of the Committee appointed to examine the

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state and condition of Sullens Farm reported that the house and buildings are in a state of dilapidation and that the land did not appear to have been farmed in a manner agreeable to the covenants contained in the lease; further, that the plan of the estate being very inaccurate, the Committee do recommend that a fresh one should be taken by a land surveyor and for him to report at the same time his opinion what timber might be cut down and the value thereof, there appearing to the Committee a large quantity and of considerable value which might be felled and so far from injuring would benefit the estate.

Resolved—That a land surveyor be appointed to survey the estate of Sullens Farm and to make his report to the next General Court, and that the Master and Mr. Alexander do name a surveyor. Agreed that the Master and Wardens together with the gentlemen of the Committee who were appointed to examine the estate be continued a Committee and to give such instructions to the surveyor as they may think necessary.

At a Court Meeting held at Guildhall on Monday, 1st day of October, 1804, a resolution was passed to the effect that no journeyman should be allowed to make his son free of this Company without paying his quarterage as a journeyman.

At a Court Meeting held at Guildhall on Monday, 5th day of January, 1805, Mr. Roberts, one of the Committee appointed to receive the report of Mr. Asser, the surveyor employed to survey the state and condition of Sullens Farm and to measure and value the timber standing and growing thereon, reported that the Committee had received a report from Mr. Asser which appeared to them unsatisfactory, particularly with regard to the timber fit to be sold, which the Committee

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conceived to be considerably undervalued, and it also appears to the Committee that the amount of dilapidations as stated by Mr. Asser is far short of the damages actually sustained and that the report is silent as to the dilapidations of the farmhouse and offices. The Committee therefore submit that although the surveyor's report is not as satisfactory as might have been expected yet it will perhaps be of material consequence, as they apprehend the Company will think that the best way of selling the timber and letting the farm will be by public auction. But it appears to the Committee that it will be necessary to employ some other person to survey the state of the land, house and offices, with directions to state the amount and particulars of such dilapidations so as to enable the Company to call on Mr. Stubbs, the present lessee, for the amount and to enforce the same by legal measures if necessary.

At the Court Meeting held on Monday, 4th day of March, 1805, Mr. Roberts, who had read the Committee's report at a previous Court Meeting, now reported the result of a report from another surveyor, a Mr. Forster (it is of a most interesting character and so it is here copied in full as it may be of future use and save a perusal of the old minutes). The Committee reported that they had from recommendation employed Mr. Forster of Tottenham (surveyor), with whom they had several interviews and have reason to be satisfied that he is quite sufficient. That they had instructed what was wanted to be done, and have received from him the following statement of the condition of the estate and the value of the timber, viz. :

Account of premises and Land of Sullens

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Farm Cobbets Stye Upminster in Tenure of George Stubbs Esq. the property of the Company of Feltmakers taken 11 & 12 Feb. 2nd month 1805 [*sic*].

Farm house, merely, quartering and plaister and weather boards and partly brick work covered with plain tiles only two low stories.

Ground floor, setting room in good repair, room adjoining floor and windows in decay.

Kitchen and store room, brick floor also ~~rien~~ room and wood room, pantry and adjoining in moderate repair.

One pair of stairs, three chambers, ceilings in the roof, one very good floor, the others oak floors and settled yet in decent repair, also stair case, back stairs, and store room over setting room in moderate repair.

If one end of house was taken down as proposed by the present tenant and the dwelling house thus reduced, it would be large enough for the farm, cost less in repair and the materials be of use.

One brown with three royal and a midsty weather boards in moderate repair, floor deal boards in want of repair.

Chaff house adjoining.

One stable for four horses, with lofts over and adjoining.

One cow house, waggon house, and cart lodge, all thatched and in moderate repair.

The land lies very contiguous to the premises and is surrounded by good roads, part of it good staple, some of it thin and cold, the situation rather low and flat, yet part of it might be improved by draining.

(Signed) WM. FORSTER.

Tottenham, 21st 2nd Month, 1805.

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Value of timber fit for felling either from growing or standing to no profit to the estate :

43 elms	..	580 feet at 21d.	£50	15	0	
13 ash	..	105 „ 2/8	14	0	0	
14 oak	..	114 „ 3/-	17	2	0	£81 17 0

with lops 3, tops and bark.

Appears improving in growth :

67 elms	..	348 feet at 18d.	26	2	0	
10 ash	..	26 „ 2/6	3	5	0	
13 oak	..	80 „ 3/-	12	0	0	41 7 0

Teffier improving in growth :

67 elms	..	..	value	10	7	0
20 ash	..	..	„	2	12	0
18 oak	..	..	„	2	17	6

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£139 0 6

3 fallows, 38 feet, 15d.—47/-.

Account of pollards, some of them decayed and part growing, and about one-third fit for felling for repairs of the farm and premises, say for weather boards, joists for barn floor, quartering for and building gates and posts and whelms in gateway :

78 oak.  
71 elms.  
7 ash.

(Signed) WM. FORSTER.

Tottenham, 21st 2 Mo., 1805.

Resolved—That the sale of the timber be left to Mr. Forster, and ordered the Clerk to acquaint him therewith, and further to request him to attend at the next Court, when the day would be fixed to let the farm by public auction.

At the next Court on Monday the 1st day of April, 1805, among other things it was agreed to receive proposals for the letting of Sullens Farm

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at the next General Court, to be held on the 1st day of July, and that the Clerk do advertize the same and have handbills printed and dispersed, and Mr. Forster, the surveyor, was desired to draw up such particulars as terms for the lease as he might think necessary to be shown.

Agreed to redeem the land tax of the said farm.

At the General Court held on Monday the 1st day of July, 1805, there were seven offers to lease the farm for twenty-one years, the lowest being £63 per annum and the highest being £84 per annum.

Mr. Thos. Moore being the highest proposal it was agreed to grant him a lease of the farm for twenty-one years from Michaelmas next, and he signed an agreement accordingly, as did also Mr. Shearman on behalf of the Company, Mr. Shearman having recently been admitted on the Copyhold Manor as tenant for life on behalf of the Company. It was also ordered that the Clerk do attend the meeting of the Commissioners for the redemption of the land tax to be held at Romford and to contract for the purchase of the land tax on Sullens Farm.

At the General Quarterly Court held at Guildhall on Monday the 13th day of January, 1806, the Master reported that the executors of the late Mr. Thos. King had transferred in the names of the Master, Wardens and Assistants of this Company agreeable to the will of the said Mr. King £1,000 New South Sea Annuities and £400 3 per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities, and he further reported that it was necessary that the legacy duty thereon amounting to eighty-three pounds should be immediately paid, whereupon the Renter Warden was ordered to pay the said duty.

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Resolved—That Mr. Wm. Shearman, Mr. Thos. Bliss and Mr. John Oakley be empowered to receive the dividends arising on the said stock, and that the Master and Wardens be and are hereby empowered to affix the Company's Seal to such power or power of attorney that may be necessary for that purpose.

Agreed not to elect annuitants under the will of the late Mr. Thos. King until such time the Company are repaid by the dividends on the said stock the amount they have advanced for legacy duty.

At the General Quarterly Court on Monday the 7th day of July the following appears on the minutes :

“There not being a sufficient number of Assistants present to make a Court the minutes of the previous meetings were not read.”

And in consequence of there not being a Court it was proposed to submit to the next General Court the necessity of increasing the reward for attendance to ten shillings and sixpence, also to increase the fine for non-attendance.

As to Sullens Farm, trouble appears to have been constantly arising, for at the Court held on Monday, 2nd day of February, 1807, Mr. Thomas Moore, tenant of Sullens Farm, attended and requested this Court would postpone the sale of his effects till after Wednesday as then a person would come forward to pay the rent to Michaelmas upon condition the Court would give him leave to transfer the lease.

No decision appears to be recorded.

At a Court Meeting held on Monday, 11th day of January, 1808, the Clerk reported that upon the receipt of the dividends due the 5th inst. upon the stock bequeathed to this Company by

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the late Mr. Thos. King there would be a balance in hand of nineteen pounds seventeen shillings.

Resolved—That the Master and Wardens do at the Court to be held in February pay the aforesaid balance of nineteen pounds seventeen shillings in proportionate parts to the six poor Masters and six poor widows who were chosen on the last election day.

This was the first distribution of gift under the will of the late Mr. Thos. King, the widows receiving £2 8s. 9½d. each and the Masters 17s. 4½d. each.

The death of Mr. John Hall, the Clerk of the Company, was reported by the Beadle to the Court Meeting on Monday, 4th day of July, 1814, and at the Court Meeting held on Monday, 4th day of August, 1814, Mr. Chas. Humphrys was unanimously elected Clerk.

From the following record in the minutes of the Court Meeting held on Monday, 19th day of January, 1815, it appears that the money left for charitable distribution was regarded by the Income Tax Commissioners as not being liable to be charged with income tax, viz. :

The Clerk reported that he had made the necessary application to the Tax Office for a return of the Property Duty deducted from the dividends of Mr. King's legacy, and that he had got the same allowed from 5th July, 1807, to 5th July, 1814, inclusive, being seven years at £4 4s. per annum, in the whole £29 8s.

At a Court Meeting held on Monday, 3rd day of April, 1815, the Clerk produced to the Court a petition, in the German language together with a translation of it, dated Leipsig, 3rd October, 1814, signed by Johann Carl Frederick Toppel, citizen, master hatter and manufacturer in Colditz, praying



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for some relief in consequence of heavy losses sustained by the war in Germany, but particularly by the battle which was fought in the neighbourhood of Leipsig. Resolved that this petition be considered at a future period, Mr. Wontner, Senr., undertaking to make some enquiries on the subject.

By a careful search of the minutes of subsequent meetings, no report by Mr. Wontner on the subject appears to be recorded. Possibly the German reputation was as bad one hundred years before the compilation of this history as it is at the time of writing in the third year of the World's greatest War.

At a Court Meeting held on Monday the 10th day of January, 1820, it was among other things ordered that for the present and the next three Quarterly Courts the members, Clerk and Beadle receive for their attendance the sum of one guinea instead of half a guinea as heretofore.

At a Court Meeting held on Monday the 2nd day of October, 1820, a letter was laid before the Court from Mr. Carlyle, Secretary to the Commissioners for enquiring into Charities, requiring to be furnished with a statement of all the Charities under the management of the Feltmakers Company. Resolved—That a Committee consisting of the five following members be appointed to investigate the matter and report their opinion on Thursday next, viz., Mr. Norville, Mr. Wontner, Senr., Mr. Jones, Mr. Bourne and Mr. Hall, Junr. But as at the next Court no record of their opinion is entered, it is only fair to assume that the required information was conveyed to the Commissioner, but when and at what date it appears difficult to determine.

At a Court Meeting held on Monday the 2nd

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day of April, 1821, a letter was laid before the Court from Mr. Thos. Henry Hall and Mr. John Christy, two of the Assistants of this Company lately elected, offering for the acceptance of the Court £20 each in lieu of the customary dinner on the occasion of their becoming members of the said Court. Resolved that these sums be received, and resolved that the said two sums in the Navy five per cents. in the Bank of England in the names of the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants of this Company and that the dividends arising therefrom be received half-yearly and paid over to the Renter Warden for the time being for the general purposes of the Company. And at the Court held on Monday the 2nd day of July, 1821, the Master (Mr. Bourne) reported that the money presented to the Court by Mr. Hall and Mr. Christy had been laid out in the purchase of £36 11s. 5d. Navy five per cent. Annuities in the names of Edward Cook Bourne, Joseph Jones, and James Hall on the 16th May last, the price of Stocks on that day being 109 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

An amusing item on the minutes of the Court Meeting held on Monday the 7th day of January, 1822, is worth recording, viz. :

Ordered—That in future the Committee of Stewards receive for their attendance at their meetings in August and September the sum of five shillings each, and that no dinner be had by them on either of those days. At the same Court Meeting it was resolved that at the dinner had by this Company on the election day the Master and Wardens be at liberty to invite one friend only and that no other visitors be admitted to the dinner, and that two members who have passed the Chair be requested to regulate the dinner on that day. The fee for attendance at

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the Courts was on this day reduced to half a guinea, until the further order of the Court.

On Monday the 1st day of April, 1822, it was resolved that it be recommended to the Renter Warden not to exceed the sum of seven pounds in the expenditure of a dinner for the Committee of Stewards in lieu of all fees in the August and September Courts. At the same Court it was resolved that a Committee consisting of the Master and Wardens together with Mr. Wontner, Senr., Mr. Oakey and Mr. Norville to enquire into the present number of the Livery and provide a book to insert their names in, and that in future when any members are admitted on the Cloathing of the said Company his name be inserted in the said book.

In the year 1822 the presiding Master, Mr. Jones, died during his year of office.

At the Court Meeting held on Monday the 1st day of July, 1822, the Committee appointed at the last Court to enquire into the present number of the Livery of this Company and to provide a book to enter the names in reported that they had proceeded in such enquiry and had entered the names to the present day in a book which they had provided for that purpose.

Resolved—That thirty copies of the list of the present Livery be printed, one of each to be distributed to each member of the Court. Resolved—That a list of the Livery be published annually and distributed to the members of the Court on the first Monday in July.

At the Court Meeting held on Monday the 7th day of October, 1822, the question of the bye-laws appears to have been revived and the following resolution adopted, viz.: That a Committee be appointed to consider the present

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bye-laws of this Company and report their opinion thereon at some future Court, the Committee to consist of the Master and Wardens, together with Mr. Shearman, Mr. Oakey, Mr. Wontner, Senr., Mr. Norville and Mr. Wontner, Junr. And at the Court held on Monday, 13th day of January, 1823, the Committee appointed at a Court held on 7th day of October last to consider the present bye-laws of the Company and report their opinion thereon now laid before the Court their report, stating that they had proceeded in their enquiries; and the Clerk having laid before the Committee several papers relating to the subject, and upon taking the whole into consideration, it appears that it would be desirable in several instances that the existing bye-laws should be amended; but the Committee considering the heavy expenses which would be incurred by preparing a new set of bye-laws and getting them sanctioned according to the Charter and under the present finances of the Company, the Committee recommended that for the present the matter be postponed.

Resolved—That the proceedings of the Committee be confirmed.

At the Court Meeting held on Monday, 12th day of January, 1824, Mr. Dando, lately elected an Assistant of this Company, requested the acceptance of the Court of £20 in lieu of the customary dinner on the occasion of his becoming a member, whereupon it was resolved that the same be accepted and that such sum be invested in the new 4 per cents. in the Bank of England in the names of Mr. Bourne, Mr. Hall, Senr., Mr. Peachey and Mr. Hall, Junr., and the dividends arising therefrom be received half-yearly and paid over to the Renter Warden for the general purposes of the Company. At the Court held on

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Monday, 5th day of April, 1824, Mr. Hall reported that the sum of £20 which was presented to this Company at the last Court had been invested in the new 4 per cents. in the purchase of £18 17s. 3d., which being added to the former investments made in the whole the sum of £57 5s. 2d. stock, and this sum stands in the names of Mr. Bourne, Mr. Hall, Senr., Mr. Hall, Junr., and Mr. Peachey.

At the Court held on 4th day of October, 1824, a further sum of £20 was given by Mr. Kain with a like object as the previous gift, and it was accepted and agreed to be invested in the same manner and in the same names; and at the Court held three days after, viz., Thursday, 7th October, 1824, Mr. Hall reported that the said £20 had been so invested, purchasing £18 14s. 3d., and the total amount in the said four names then stood at £75 19s. 5d.

At the Court Meeting on Monday, 10th day of January, 1825, it was ordered that the Clerk open an account of the several sums of money presented to this Court by any member for the benefit of the Company, and an account of interest from time to time be posted up.

At the Court Meeting held on Thursday, 6th day of October, 1825, it was decided that all future Monthly and Quarterly Meetings of the Court should be held at 11 o'clock a.m. for 12 o'clock precisely in the forenoon.

Thus the Company has continued from its early days down to the present day formed by the Hatters, Masters and Journeymen of the 16th Century, first practically as a select Trade Union, with their Bi-weekly, Monthly, and Special General Quarterly Meetings, termed from

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the commencement, Courts, down to the early part of the 18th Century, when bi-weekly meetings were discontinued ; then in the early part of the 19th Century monthly meetings were discontinued, and only Quarterly Courts held as at present. The loyalty of the Feltmakers to the Corporation is ever demonstrated throughout the whole of the records. At every election day, which from its earliest records has always been on the first Thursday in October of each year, two members were appointed to act as Stewards to provide a dinner for the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants, which took place on the 9th of November (Lord Mayor's Day), or as the minutes usually describe it, "being the day on which the Lord Mayor attended at Westminster to take the oath of performance of his duties as Lord Mayor of London." This function since 1882 has been performed at the Law Courts in the Strand, Alderman Henry Edmund Knight (now Sir H. E. Knight) being the last Lord Mayor sworn at Westminster, the first at the new Law Courts being Robert Nicholas Fowler, 1883.

It is to be regretted that the Feltmakers or Hatters trade allowed the Company to dwindle almost into decay, but the various trade troubles from time to time arising probably brought this about, added to the introduction, in the first half of the 19th Century, of hats made of gossamer, covered in the first days of their adoption with a silky looking material known as English tissue, which when properly made and finished looked much like a superior kind of beaver, but, alas ! unlike the beaver would not stand the ravages of the weather. This material was the cause of the invention of silk plush by the French, which towards the end of the 19th Century was worked up to a point of

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practical perfection, manufactured by well-known Frenchmen in the silk plush trade as J. B. Martin, Messrs. Massing Frères, Pierre Massing, Huber & Co., and others less prominent. The manufacture of this material is most intricate and interesting, but as it does not concern Feltmakers as Liverymen (beyond the fact that in common with the best dressed Liverymen of some other Companies they are seen wearing silk hats of the best kind produced by the leading manufacturers of the day, viz., Messrs. Lincoln & Bennett, Victor Jay & Co., etc., the chiefs of which firms are members of the Court and Past Masters of the Company) it is not part of the compiler's duty to follow the subject of silk hats. To return briefly to felt and other hats, the support of the trade to the Feltmakers Company practically expired on the introduction of Free Trade, which had it have been adopted universally, as the promoters Messrs. Cobden and Bright advocated, things might have been much better even for the hatters. However, politics must not be permitted in this compilation, suffice it to say that hats gradually came to be sold by drapers, tailors, general stores, hair dressers, and even boot makers, so that the original intention of the founders of the Company has been entirely dissipated to such a degree that among the recipients of the Charity of Macham's "Gift," in the first class there is not a genuine claimant, the qualification being that he should have been a master hat manufacturer in the City of London, or within four miles thereof, and a Liveryman of the Feltmakers Company. It may here be advisable and interesting to refer to the tradition attaching to Mr. Macham's gift.

In the early days of beaver (or stuff) hats a

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great deal of the roughing, or bowing the fur on to the body, was done at the home of the workmen. The fur was served out to them by the employer and, being valuable material, it was frequently pawned at the beginning of the week and redeemed towards the end, or later periods. The majority of the workmen resided in the neighbourhood of Southwark and Bermondsey, from Great Surrey Street (now known as Blackfriars Road) in the north-west of the said area to Bermondsey Street in the south-east. It is alleged that a popular pawnbroker of High Street, Borough, S.E., was one Macham, and as he was greatly patronized by the stuff hatters he made much money out of the transactions he had with them, and such was his great appreciation of their patronage that at his approaching dissolution he devised by his will certain possessions at Upminster in Essex to the Feltmakers Company to provide a gift every new year of twenty shillings each to twenty poor Master Feltmakers, as he evidently realized the difficulty of hatters making a competency to keep them in after life.

There is no instance of any practical hatter ever having filled a civic position of dignity except Mr. C. J. Cuthbertson, who was elected Alderman of the Ward of Farringdon Without on the retirement of Sir Geo. Faudel Phillips, but he died suddenly in the evening of the day on which he was elected, and he was not a Liveryman of the Feltmakers Company. Mr. J. R. W. Luck, a Past Master of the Feltmakers Company, who carried on the business of a factor or buyer and seller of manufactured hats and caps, was for some years Deputy Alderman of the Ward of Walbrook, in which thoroughfare his place of business was situate. There have been very few hat manufacturers in the City



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proper. The prominent makers were Messrs. Hall of London Wall, afterwards amalgamated with Messrs. Tress of Blackfriars Road, Messrs. Thos. Townend & Co., London Wall, Messrs. Cooper, Box & Co., Aldermanbury. Had the City Corporation extended its boundary and taken in Southwark as one of its wards, which many years ago was strongly advocated, it is possible that some of the larger manufacturers whose firms still exist might have interested themselves in the affairs of the City and sought some of its honours.

As to the possessions of the Company, not being the owners of a Hall, the minute books that are in existence to the year 1825 are carefully preserved in the Guildhall Library, and will well repay a visit by those interested in the Company if at any time they should desire to inspect them. Any one wishing to read them should attend the library at Guildhall, sign the reader's book on entrance, proceed to one of the many tables, fill up one of the application forms, of which there is a plentiful supply in the boxes on the tables, by writing: Feltmakers, Minute Book 1570, Vol. 1 or 2, or any number up to 6, which is the last deposited there. The minute books since that date are in the custody of the Clerk at his office. The Charters, Loving Cups and other interesting possessions are at the Company's Bankers.

The property of the Company producing an income is:

Company's own money invested.

A farm at Upminster, known as Sullens Farm, bequeathed by Philip Macham, the 19th May, 1672. It was known as Old Sullings in the manor of Corbet Sty, in the Parish of Upminster, Essex. Copyhold house and about 40 acres, subject to

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an annuity of £5, the income to be distributed annually to twenty poor masters, and £5 each to five poor masters.

Thomas King gave the sum of £1,000, invested in New South Sea Annuities, on 29th August, 1804, in trust for the following gifts annually: £5 each to six poor widows of Master Feltmakers, to be paid on 30th January in each and every year, and £2 each to six poor masters on the first Monday in each and every year.

The recipients of all the above are selected by the Court of Assistants.

In addition to the property at Upminster, and by virtue of their position as Copyholders of that estate, the Company possesses another piece of land at Harold Wood, nearly four miles distant from Sullens Farm, upon what is known as Upminster Common and about 400 yards north of the High or Squirrels Heath Road leading from Romford to Great Warley Street and not far from Harold Wood Station on the London to Chelmsford main line of the Great Eastern Railway.

It has an area of 2a. 3r. 27p., and is approached by two occupation roads which are only made up fit for passage of vehicles about one-half the distance, the remainder are grass-grown tracks with no drainage.

It appears that an Enclosure Act was passed somewhere between 1830 and 1840 with regard to this Common. In pursuance of its provisions awards were issued, and in due course allotments made and the Company became entitled to the meadow as their share through William Shearman, at that time tenant on the Rolls of the Manor as Trustee for the Company. This piece of land was formerly included with the Lease of Sullens Farm,

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but the occupying tenant used to underlet for £1 a year as it was too far away from the farm to cultivate himself.

In more recent times it has been let separately, and is now held on an agreement for three years by Mr. T. G. Ellingford at a rental of £4 10s. per annum.

This land is a useful piece of pasture, naturally well drained and lying well up and sloping towards the north-west. It is hedged in on three sides, with a post and wire fence to the remainder and a gate to each roadway. It yields fairly good crops of grass, but until its means of access are improved it will not increase in value or become eligible for building.

It is possible that over two hundred years ago the Company was possessed of other property, for at a Court held on Monday, 4th October, 1703, the Master acquainted the Court that he had lately a meeting with Sir Reginald Foster, who offered two hundred guineas for the Company's interest in the house in West Smithfield. Ordered—That the Master and Wardens may conclude with him to sell the Company's interest for £250.

What became of the property, or if it was sold, where and in what way the money was disposed of, a careful search of the minutes of subsequent meetings does not disclose.

Again, the several sums of money that were presented to the Court from time to time and invested, the records do not relate how these investments were dealt with afterwards, except that in 1798 £300 was sold, in 1799 £260 was sold, and in 1801 £100 was sold, but with what object does not appear; the balance sheets were not entered on the minutes, simply a record of the

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Renter Warden's receipts and expenditure and the balance remaining in his hands, which he was by resolution ordered to hand over to his successor.

In the early days and for many years the minutes were never signed by the Master, although it is recorded regularly that they were read and confirmed. Frequently at the foot of the minutes appears the word "pyed" and some initials, possibly the Clerk's, if the minutes were written by an Assistant.

On 5th July, 1830, Mr. Hall, Junr., reported that the sum of £20 had been invested in the names of four gentlemen already nominated as Trustees for the Company in the purchase of £19 13s. 1d. new 4 per cent. Annuities pursuant to the directions of the last Court, making the total investment £239 14s. 10d.

On the 6th of September, 1830, a Mr. Marsh who was carrying on a hat business in Cheapside was summoned to the October Court Meeting to take up the Freedom of the Company. At the October Meeting he attended and produced a certificate of Freedom of the Long Bow String Makers Company, and the Court thereupon determined not to press upon him the taking up the Freedom of this Company: thus proving that the Company to which he then belonged was practically a Company connected with Felt Making, but which has ceased to have a separate existence.

At the Court held on 7th February, 1831, Mr. T. H. Hall reported that he had laid out the sum of £60 in the purchase of £66 6s. new £3 10s. per cent. Annuities, pursuant to the order of the last Court.

At the Court held on 11th April, 1831, the

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Committee which had been appointed on the 7th October, 1830, to examine the Free and Livery Book made a lengthy report, on the subject of a record of names of Freemen and Liverymen of the Company, in pursuance of a decision arrived at by the Court on 1st April, 1822; and as the Committee had discovered certain laches and omissions they recommended that the name of every person admitted to the Freedom of the Company should be immediately entered in the proper book kept for that purpose.

At the Court held at Guildhall on the 9th January, 1832, the Clerk read to the Court a requisition from the Town Clerk and his answer thereto, which the Court ordered to be entered on the minutes, and the compiler of this history deems it worthy of record here. It is as follows:

By the Mayor.

To the Master and Wardens of the Company of Feltmakers.

The King having been pleased to comply with the prayer of an humble address presented to His Majesty in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Commons dated 12th day of December, 1831, for "a return of the number of voters polled at the last contested election for every City and Borough now returning Members to Parliament, and the probable number of voters at this time," also, "a return of the number of Freemen in every corporate town which now returns Members of Parliament, whether the right of voting be in the Freemen or not": And Lord Viscount Melbourne, His Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Home Department having desired that the said returns, so far as they relate to the City of London, be prepared and transmitted to him with the least possible

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delay, in order that they may be laid before the House of Commons :

These are to require you to cause the Clerk of your Company to return to the Town Clerk at the Guildhall of this City, within three days from the receipt hereof, the number of the present Freemen of your Company, distinguishing what portion of them are of the Livery.

Dated this 28th day of December, 1831.

WOODTHORPE.

Salisbury Square,

4th January, 1832.

Sir,

In reply to your requisition to me as Clerk of the Company of Feltmakers of London to return the number of the present Freemen of the Company, distinguishing what portion of them are of the Livery, I have to inform you that I cannot make a return of the exact numbers, inasmuch as it is uncertain whether many persons admitted to the Freedom of the Company are now living ; but the best estimate I have been enabled to form is that the number of present Freemen of the Company is from 250 to 300, of whom 109 are of the Livery.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,

JAS. PEACHEY.

H. Woodthorpe, Esq.

At the Court Meeting, 2nd April, 1832, Mr. T. H. Hall reported that he had laid out £60 in the purchase of £67 1s. 8d. new  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Annuities in the names of Messrs. Edward Cook Bourne, James Hall, Thomas H. Hall and James Peachey, as trustees for the Company, and that thereby the amount of stock so held in trust

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amounted to £373 2s. 6d. Then at the Court held on 2nd July, 1832, a Mr. Barton paid £20 in lieu of providing a dinner to the members of the Court on his election, and this sum appears by the minutes of Court Meeting, 1st October, 1832, to have been invested in the purchase of new  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Annuities, the total therefore at that date was £394 18s. 10d. On 7th October, 1833, Mr. Suter paid £20 instead of providing a dinner to celebrate his election, and this sum was ordered to be invested; and on January 13th, 1834, Mr. T. H. Hall reported this investment purchased £20 16s. 8d., bringing the total investment to £415 15s. 6d. At this same January Court it was decided that the annual payment of one guinea caveat money should be discontinued, that the supply of newspapers to the Company on the Court days should be discontinued, and that the hiring of gowns for Wardens be discontinued.

The expenses of the Company about this time appear to have been somewhat great, for at the Plough Monday Meeting, January 12th, 1835, the audit report disclosed an indebtedness to the Renter Warden of £56 15s. It was then decided to sell out £50 worth of the £415 15s. 6d., and the dinner to the Committee who were selected for appointing Stewards for the Lord Mayor's Day dinner of the Company was abandoned. An attempt was also made at this meeting to reduce the payment of one guinea to members of the Court for their attendance to 10s. 6d. or 5s., but both the proposition for 10s. 6d. and the amendment for 5s. failed to obtain support and were rejected.

It is interesting to record that Messrs. Baugh and Brushfield, for many years in business as hat makers in Great Dover Street, Southwark,

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were as youths both apprenticed to Liverymen of this Company. Mr. Wm. Baugh under articles of apprenticeship to Mr. Wm. Miller Christy, dated 14th June, 1816, and admitted to the Freedom of the Company 20 years afterwards, viz., 5th September, 1836, at which date Joseph Brushfield was bound apprentice to the said Wm. Baugh.

At the Court held on the 5th October, 1837, it was reported that, as no persons would take upon themselves the office of Steward for next Lord Mayor's Day, the dinner could not be given according to the bye-law. This was the first time that the custom of the Company dining together on Lord Mayor's Day had been broken, and it is somewhat peculiar seeing that it was just the beginning of the first year of the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. It is also strange that although a Court Meeting was held on July 3rd, 1837, within a fortnight of the death of His Majesty King William the Fourth, no reference is recorded of any notice of the accession of the young Queen who was destined to reign for sixty-three and a half years.

It is evident from the minutes of a Special General Court held on 28th October, 1837, that some special efforts for the various Livery Companies to have special facilities to view the Lord Mayor's Show of that year, because at this Court, the Clerk having read a letter from the Town Clerk dated 25th October, 1837, it was moved and resolved that it was not expedient to make any application to the Canon residentiary for permission to erect a booth or standing on the 9th of November.

At this Court it was resolved that the members be paid 5s. each for their attendance.



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It appears that about September or October, 1837, an action of some kind was instituted against the Company by one Charles Jackson and others, for at a Special General Court held on Monday, 6th day of November, 1837, it was moved and unanimously resolved that the Clerk do enter an appearance in the Court of Chancery to the subpoena at the suit of Her Majesty's Attorney-General at the relation of Charles Jackson and others, and that a Court be summoned upon the Clerk having obtained a copy of the information. On Thursday, 14th day of December, 1837, the Court took into consideration the answer to be given to the information, and the further meeting was adjourned to to-morrow at 6 o'clock. On the next day, 15th December, 1837, the Court took into further consideration the instructions to be laid before Counsel for the answer to be put in to the information to be filed by the Attorney-General on the relation of Charles Jackson and others.

On the 2nd day of February, 1838, at a Special General Court the Clerk read over the draft of the answer to the information, and it was ordered that the Court should be summoned for Tuesday next at 12 o'clock in order to the affixing of the seal of the Company to the engrossment of such answer.

At the Court held on the 6th day of February, 1838, the said answers were submitted and the seal of the Company was affixed, but the nature of the said answers does not appear on the minutes. At the next Court, 2nd April, 1838, £80 worth of Consols was ordered to be sold and proceeds placed in the hands of the Clerk to meet the costs of the information. At the Court held Monday, 2nd day of July, 1838, the following appears on the minutes :

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“It was moved and resolved that the sum of £43 9s. 8d. 3 per cent. Consols be sold, and the proceeds thereof and also the rent of Sullens Farm now due be paid to Mr. Peachey to be applied in payment of the costs of the information and accounted for by him. The amount of costs as taxed being—

Relators' Costs	..	£105 10 1
Defendants' Costs	..	74 17 11

The draft of a scheme for the management of the Charity having been read, it was resolved that the same be proposed to the Master in Chancery.”

At the Court held on Thursday, 4th October, 1838, a letter from Thomas Garner Richmond, dated this day, was read and the Clerk was directed to inform Mr. Richmond that the scheme approved of by the Master in Chancery had not been confirmed by the Court of Chancery. By the minutes of Court held 7th January, 1839, the action appears to have been to vary the method of disposing of the income arising from Macham's “Gift.” The record is as follows:

The Clerk also produced the Master's report containing the scheme and the decree of the Master of the Rolls on further directions in the suit instituted relative to Macham's Charity. And the Clerk reported that such suit had been brought to a termination, and he produced his account of moneys received from the Company in relation thereto and of his payments, whereby it appeared that all the costs had been taxed by the Master and paid and that there was upon such a balance due to the Clerk of £57 2s. 5d.

The Clerk also produced to the Court an account of all moneys received in respect of the rents and profits of the copyhold estate called Sullens

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Farm, devised by the will of Philip Macham, and of the applications thereof from the 1st day of October, 1837, the date of the institution of the said suit, to the 31st day of December, 1837, duly entered in a book pursuant to one of the articles of the said scheme, upon which account there appeared a balance of £189 16s. 6d. due to the Company and receivable by them out of the costs and profits of the Sullens Farm estate.

The scheme of the Master in Chancery approved by the Court having been read, it was moved and resolved that the Master's report containing the scheme and the decree on further directions be entered on the minutes, and the scheme be entered at the commencement of the Sullens Farm Rent Account Book.

The scheme is as follows :

26th July, 1838. Between His Majesty's Attorney-General, at the relation of Charles Jackson, Thomas Garner Richmond and Edward Higginbottom, Informants; The Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the Art or Mystery of Felt-makers of London, Defendants.

IN pursuance of the Decree made on the hearing of this Cause bearing date the first day of May 1838 whereby it is declared that the whole amount of the rents and profits of the copyhold estate in the pleadings mentioned is under the will of Philip Macham the testator applicable to the charitable purposes directed by such will And whereby it is (amongst other things) referred to me to settle a scheme for the future application of such rents and profits having regard to the intentions of the testator as appearing by his said will And whereby as well the Relators as also the Defendants were to be at liberty to propose a scheme for that purpose And whereby it is

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referred to me to take an account of the rents and profits of the said copyhold estate received by the Defendants or by any other person or persons by their order or for their use since the filing of the information in case the parties differed about the same And whereby also it was referred to me to tax all parties their costs of and properly relating to this suit as between solicitor and client And in taxing the same I was to allow the said parties or any of them any costs charges and expenses not costs in the cause which they might respectively have properly incurred and paid I have been attended by the solicitor of the Relators and also by the solicitors of the Defendants And pursuant to the said Decree as well the Relators as also the Defendants have respectively proposed schemes before me But it appearing to me that the Defendants' scheme was the best adapted for the purpose I have therefore proceeded on the said state of facts and scheme laid before me by or on behalf of the said Defendants whereby after stating that by the will of Philip Macham bearing date the 19th day of May 1692 he devised as follows *videlicet* "I give and bequeath unto the Master Wardens and Assistants of the Company of Feltmakers of the City of London for the time being as trustees for the poor only and not otherwise All that my copyhold estate containing by estimation 40 acres of land be the same more or less called by the name of Old Sullens near Corbit Styte situate lying and being in the Parish of Upminster in the County of Essex they the said Master Wardens and Assistants paying the annuity hereby reserved and hereinafter bequeathed (that is to say) I do hereby will and desire the Master Wardens and Assistants of the Company of Feltmakers

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aforesaid to give and distribute once in every year yearly vizt. at Christmas to 20 decayed master hatmakers be the number more or less 20 shillings apiece and no more according as the rents of the estate shall rise or fall the annuity before mentioned still being reserved I give and bequeath unto my kinswoman Katherine Parsons spinster the sum of £5 of good and lawful money of England yearly so long as the said Katherine shall live as an annuity to be paid unto the said Katherine Parsons out of my estate in Essex aforesaid by the Master Wardens and Assistants of the Company of Feltmakers at the four most usual feasts or days of payment in the year that is to say 25s. upon every quarter day the first payment whereof to be made on the first quarter day after my decease And my will further this is that after the death of the said Katherine Parsons the annuity shall fall to five poor master hatmakers more to be distributed by the Master Wardens and Assistants of the Company of Feltmakers aforesaid for the time being " And further stating that the said Defendants under and by virtue of the said devise entered into the possession and receipt of the rents and profits of the said copyhold estate as such devisees in trust thereof and upon such trusts as in the said will mentioned and that they have ever since continued and are now in such possession and receipt And that the Katherine Parsons has long since died And further stating that the said estate is now let at a rental of £84 per annum under lease but that the tenant has made repeated applications for the reduction of rent alleged that it is too high for the present times and has also made an application to the said Defendants to build a granary on the estate

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which is much wanted And further stating that there is timber on the land which is applicable to the purpose of repairs and that some expenses are occasionally incurred in going to view the state of repair of the said premises and for the assignment of timber to cut for repairs or sale And further stating that the estate is of copyhold tenure and that on admission of each tenant a fine is payable and that upon the death of each tenant a heriot or heriots becomes due to the Lord And that upon the death of the last and on the admission of the present tenant the heriot fines fees and other expenses exceeded the sum of £40 for the payment whereof provision should be made and that inasmuch as the payment in respect of heriots is uncertain in amount and 12 guineas only having been paid on the last occasion for two heriots it is probable the next payment may be greater And further stating that it appears by the will of the said testator that it was his particular intention that there should after the death of the said Katherine Parsons be 25 annual recipients of his bounty who according to the terms of his will were to be decayed master hatmakers. The said Defendants the Master Wardens and Court of Assistants therefore proposed the following scheme for the future application of the rents and profits of the said estate :

Article 1st. THAT the said Master Wardens and Court of Assistants do out of the rents and profits of the estate invest the sum of £40 in the purchase of £3 per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities and accumulate and invest the dividends thereon as a provision for the heriots fine and fees that may become payable on death and admission and so from time to time as occasion may require.

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2nd. THAT the Master Wardens and Assistants of the Corporation or Company of the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Art or Mystery of Feltmakers of the City of London do once in each year and every year at Christmas distribute on the exercise of a sound discretion in equal sums the whole amount of the rents and profits of the said Charity estate which shall have been respectively previously received in the course of such year and not otherwise disposed of according to this scheme to 25 decayed persons following or who have followed the business of manufacturing hats as masters and on their own account who may be in want or necessity such persons being of good character and behaviour and having served a regular apprenticeship to such business.

3rd. THAT in making such distribution preference be always given to persons qualified as master hatmakers who are or shall be freemen or members of the said Company.

4th. THAT in case there shall not be 25 applicants qualified as aforesaid in any year or years then the said Master Wardens and Assistants shall be at liberty to distribute the whole of such rents and profits either amongst such smaller number of applicants qualified as aforesaid entirely or to distribute the same partially amongst such qualified applicants but in no case exceeding £10 to any one applicant and the residue or surplus of such rents and profits amongst the poor and decayed members of the said Company not qualified as aforesaid being of good character and behaviour or such of them as in the judgment and discretion of the said Master Wardens and Assistants shall most need or require the same.

5th. THAT in case it shall happen in any one year or years that there shall not be a sufficient

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number of applicants of good character and behaviour qualified or being such as in the preceding articles is mentioned to exhaust the whole amount of the rents and profits received in any such year or years then the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Company shall invest the surplus of such rents and profits in Exchequer bills or other Government bills or securities at interest for the purpose of accumulation and whenever in any succeeding year or years there shall be a sufficient number of applicants of good character and behaviour qualified or being such as aforesaid to require more than the amount of the rents and profits received during any such year or years the said Master Wardens and Assistants shall convert such bills or securities or a sufficient part thereof into money and distribute the same with the interest thereof to such persons and in such manner and form as are hereinbefore mentioned.

6th. THAT one month at least before Christmas in every year the said Master Wardens and Assistants shall cause to be inserted in two London newspapers of the most general and extensive circulation one whereof to be of daily and one of weekly publication advertisements announcing the nature and particulars of such charity the proper objections and qualifications for the same in manner and form and according to the true intent and meaning of the several articles aforesaid.

7th. THAT in every year before the distribution of the rents and profits of the said Charity estate the necessary payments for fines heriots and fees and the expenses of such advertisements and any other reasonable and necessary expenses attending the management of the estates and the



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collection and distribution of such rents and profits shall be paid thereout.

8th. THAT in the month of January in each year at the latest there shall be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose by the said Master Wardens and Assistants or such officer as they shall appoint an account of all moneys received in the preceding year in respect of the rents and profits of the said Charity estate and of the application of all such moneys and that such account shall contain the names residences and descriptions of the persons amongst whom such rents and profits shall have been distributed and the time or respective times of such distribution.

9th. THAT there be paid to the Master Wardens and Assistants or to such officer as they shall appoint for keeping the said book and making the necessary entries therein the sum of twenty shillings yearly.

10th. THAT such book shall be open for inspection to or by any Freeman or Member of the said Company who shall desire to inspect the same upon any Court day free of expense and that a copy of these articles shall be inserted at the beginning thereof.

Now having considered the said scheme so laid before me by or on behalf of the said Defendants as aforesaid and having settled the same I do approve thereof as a proper scheme for the future application of the rents and profits of the said copyhold estate having regard to the intentions of the said testator as appearing by his will hereinbefore stated and as to the account directed to be taken of the rents and profits of the said copyhold estate the Relators have laid a charge before me of such rents and profits received by the said Defendants or by any other person or

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persons by their order or for their use since the 31st October 1837 being the day of filing the information in this Cause whereby I find that the said Defendants on the 8th January 1838 and the 9th July 1838 received two several sums of £42 each making together the sum of £84 for two half years' rents due at Michaelmas Day 1837 and Lady Day 1838 wherewith I have charged the said Defendants and the Relators also charge that the said Defendants ought to be accountable for and charged with the balance of the surplus rents in hand at Christmas 1837 on the then audit of the account and which was invested by them in the purchase of £43 9s. 8d. Bank £3 per cent. Annuities as in the Defendants' answer mentioned and upon which half a year's dividend accrued thereon but which said last-mentioned charge I have not thought fit to allow and with respect to the costs directed by the said Decree to be taxed I find that by my certificate bearing date the 19th June 1838 I certified that I had taxed the costs of the several parties at the several sums therein mentioned ALL which I humbly certify and submit to the Judgment of this Honorable Court.

HENRY MARTIN.

MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

Tuesday the 6th day of November in the  
second year of the reign of Her Majesty  
Queen Victoria 1838.

BETWEEN

Her Majesty's Attorney-General at the relation  
of Charles Jackson, Thomas Garner Richmond  
and Edward Higginbottom .. INFORMANT.

The Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the  
Art or Mystery of Feltmakers of London

DEFENDANTS.

THIS CAUSE coming on the 1st day of May

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1838 to be heard and debated before the Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in the presence of Counsel learned on both sides His Lordship did declare that the whole amount of the rents and profits of the copyhold estate in the pleadings mentioned is under the will of Philip Macham the testator therein named applicable to the charitable purposes of such will And it was ordered that it should be referred to the Master in rotation to settle a proper scheme for the future application of such rents and profits having regard to the intentions of the testator as appearing by his will and as well the Relators as also the Defendants were to be at liberty to propose a proper scheme for that purpose And it was ordered that the said Master should take an account of the rents and profits of the said copyhold estate received by the Defendants or any other person or persons by their or either of their order or for their or either of their use since the filing of the said information in case the parties differ about the same And it was ordered that the Relators' costs when taxed should be in the first place paid by the Defendants out of the Charity funds come to their hands since the filing of the information and the Defendants' costs when taxed be in the next place retained by them out of the said Charity funds. That in pursuance of the said Decree the Master made his report in this Cause and thereby found that he had considered the scheme so laid before him by or on behalf of the said Defendants and having settled the same he did approve thereof as a proper scheme for the future application of the rents and profits of the said copyhold estate having regard to the intentions of the said testator as appeared by his will thereinbefore stated and

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as to the account directed to be taken of the rents and profits of the said copyhold estate And he found that the said Defendants on the 8th day of January 1838 and on the 9th day of July 1838 received two several sums of £42 each for two half years' rents due at Michaelmas Day 1837 and Lady Day 1838 wherewith he had charged the said Defendants And the Relators also charged that the said Defendants ought to be accountable for and chargeable with the balance of the surplus rents in hand at Christmas Day 1837 on the then audit of the account and which was invested by them in the purchase of £43 gs. 8d. Bank £3 per cent. Annuities as in the Defendants' answer mentioned and upon each half a year's dividend accrued thereon on the 6th July instant and which said last-mentioned charge he had not thought fit to allow And the said Master's report was confirmed by an Order dated the 27th day of July 1838 And this Cause coming on this present day to be heard and debated before the Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls for further directions on the said Master's said report and as to the matter of costs reserved by the said Decree in the presence of Counsel learned on both sides Upon debate of the matter and hearing the said Decree dated the 1st day of May 1838 the said report dated the 26th day of July 1838 read and what was alleged by the Counsel on both sides His Lordship DOTH ORDER that the scheme mentioned in and approved of by the Master's report of the 26th day of July 1838 be established and carried into execution And it is ordered that it be referred back to the Master to tax the subsequent costs of the Relators and Defendants of this suit as between solicitor and client And it is ordered that what shall be

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taxed for the Relators' costs be paid by the said Defendants and they are to be at liberty to retain the same and also that what shall be taxed for their own costs out of the Charity funds And any of the parties are to be at liberty to apply to this Court as there shall be occasion.

At a Court Meeting held on the 11th day of January, 1841, it was moved and resolved that 100 copies of the scheme approved by the Master of the Rolls for the application of the proceeds of Sullens Farm estate be printed and a copy sent to each member of the Court.

As to the estate of Sullens Farm possessed by the Company, an exact description of it appears in a report of a Committee, appointed on 4th day of July, 1842, to view the estate and generally report thereon to the Court. This Committee consisted of the Master (Mr. Gould), the Wardens (Messrs. Darnell, T. D. Dutton, Pims and Hatchard), Mr. Norville, Mr. Suter, Mr. Wilson and Mr. J. Peachey, the Clerk.

At the Court held on the 3rd day of October, 1842, the Committee made its report, and among other items the following interesting description of the estate :

"The estate situate in Essex is 17 miles from London at Corbetstye in the Parish of Upminster, and is copyhold of the Manor of Gain and is called Sunnings or Sullens Farm ; it is situate about midway between the River Thames to the south and the high road from London to Chelmsford to the north ; it is distant 5 miles from Romford, 6 from Brentwood and 16 from Chelmsford, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to the nearest point of the Thames at Purfleet, and by the Eastern Counties

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Railway (now the Great Eastern) it is within one hour of Shoreditch Church.

"The eastern side of the farm is bounded for about 500 yards by a very good bye parish road or lane, all besides, enclosed within lands of other estates. The estate comprises about  $41\frac{1}{2}$  acres and is let for £84 per annum on a 21 years' lease, of which six will be unexpired at Lady Day next (1843). Attached to the farm is a small convenient house and homestead, which together with garden, orchard, and meadow occupy about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acres; the remaining 36 acres are all arable. A correctly measured plan of all the buildings has been taken and is annexed to this report, together with various sketches showing the character of the whole and which will form a record of all erections now upon the property.

"The buildings are now insured in the Globe for £1,000 under a policy effected in 1815. This does not now define the nature or extent of the premises or the risk, and as the Court are bound to insure, the Committee recommend that a new policy for a larger sum, say £1,200, should be effected having the separate amounts properly apportioned over the whole."

Since the date of the report from which the preceding extract is taken, no full official visit or report appears to have been made, although from time to time members of the Court have visited the property and made particular enquiry into subjects then demanding attention.

In issuing the History of the Company, however, it is considered something would be wanting if references were not made to that valuable and interesting document, and attention drawn to the many changes which have occurred in the management of the estate and its occupation during the

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last 75 years and some particulars given in connection therewith, which, although known to a few, may not be known to the large body of Liverymen now upon the Court Roll.

The extract already quoted refers to its position in the County of Essex, but at that time the nearest railway station was Romford on the Eastern Counties line, now the Great Eastern Railway. More recently a branch line has been formed from Barking through Southend to Shoeburyness with a station at Upminster, which likewise forms a junction with a line to Romford in one direction and Grays and Tilbury Docks in the other.

This station is little more than a mile from the estate, and worked by both the Great Eastern and Midland Railway Companies. It need hardly be stated that the opening of these lines has been of great advantage to the property and increased its value, especially for market production purposes, but its distance from this railway centre even now is such as to preclude it from becoming eligible for building purposes for many years to come, although there is a great demand for cottages suitable for farm labourers.

In 1842 it is stated that of the  $41\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land "the remaining 36 are all arable" (this computation of its area has been checked and found correct).

At that time no doubt the land was well farmed and produced corn in abundance, although no special reference is made to it, but the deputation of that year probably had no idea of the great change so soon to follow upon the position of all agricultural land and its cultivation by the abolition of the Corn Laws and other kindred enactments.

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For many years the estate was occupied as a pleasure farm, but during the present tenure it has been put to more practical purposes, and the land is now wholly devoted to the growth of produce, principally vegetables varying in kind and in seasons to supply the demand of the London markets, and in this respect it has been well and successfully cultivated for many years past by Mr. Alfred Knight, the Company's tenant.

Attached to the report of 1842 are some well-executed sketches of the farm buildings as they then existed, and reference is made to the amount of the insurance effected upon them in the Globe Insurance Company and recommending its increase.

These very old buildings, of wood construction and thatch covered, were destroyed by a fire in 1874, and have since been replaced by a range of more substantial brick and tiled farm buildings, to which the tenant has made some additions for the shelter of his market conveyances.

The farmhouse remains in much the same condition that it presented in 1842, as will be seen when the old sketches of that date are compared with the photographs recently taken, but for years its condition internally had not been sufficiently good to render it a desirable place for occupation.

In recent years, however, a thorough restoration has been made of the edifice in rendering its roofs sound and its plaster-facing durable, without in any way altering its external appearance, and internally it has been renovated and brought up to date by the addition of modern sanitary appliances and fittings.

Instead of water from the pond or the well it is now supplied from the South Essex Water



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Company's main, and the extension of the main drainage system from Upminster through Corbetstye to the farm buildings permitted a new length of drain from the house to be laid and connected therewith and the old cesspools abolished.

There are not now so many trees upon the estate as formerly, but a number of them, which are considered of great disadvantage to the growth of the crops, have been recently disposed of for felling. In their place saplings will be planted in accordance with the covenants, and if kept under proper control will cast less shade and extract less moisture from the soil.

While the general appearance of an estate such as this is undoubtedly improved by the presence of well-grown trees, the practical use to which it is now put renders it imperative that the land should be as open as possible and free from the obstruction of large hedges and trees.

The whole property is let upon lease to Mr. Alfred Knight, of Cranham Place, North Ockenden, for a term of 14 years, of which five will be unexpired at Michaelmas, 1917, at a rental of £85 per annum. Mr. Knight's son resides in the farmhouse.

The buildings are insured against the risk of fire and aircraft in the Law Fire Insurance Society for £1,500.

The old farming covenants have been modified as far as possible to meet the exigencies of the time and found to work satisfactorily as between landlord and tenant, and although the provisions made for the utilization of the timber and other products of the estate for repairs are applied where possible, it is not found to be either an economical or expedient course to follow strictly.

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Attached to the house and running therefrom to the road in front is a walled-in garden with orchard and paddock to the south, comprising the same area as formerly.

Of the old orchard nothing now remains, and the paddock is the only piece of pasture land left for grazing.

It may be of interest also to note that the computed quantity of the Company's land remains the same for tithe purposes, and the payment for 1916 was £15 8s. 4½d.

A plan of the estate has been prepared, showing the house and farm buildings as they exist, and the additions which have been made thereto during the present tenancy.

A careful inspection of the estate and its water courses and boundaries in connection with the properties adjoining, together with the village of Corbetstye, reveals the fact that no alteration in the surroundings has been made since the report of 1842 was issued, and that no new buildings have been erected in contiguity, except a row of cottages upon land facing the lane from Corbetstye to South Ockenden at the north end of the Company's property.

In the concluding paragraph of the report of 1842, the Committee expressed some apprehension as to the security of the payment to the annuitants, and advised the formation of some reserve fund, as there was nothing but the rental available for the maintenance of the estate. This is equally well worthy of consideration at the present time.

The best assurance that can be devised is for the Company to secure a continuation of its occupation, and in doing what is necessary for the gradual improvement of the land and the

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maintenance of the buildings thereon, thus helping to consolidate the business which has grown up in connection with it.

It is important that the tenant should be supported in his efforts to successfully compete with adjoining estates in the supply of market garden produce, for which this locality is found so eminently suitable; and if that can be achieved by the combined action of landlord and tenant, it will prove to be the better course to render the beneficiaries secure.

On the 9th day of January, 1843, one of the plaintiffs in the recent action against the Company, one T. G. Richmond, became an applicant for relief under Macham's Gift and was allowed to become a recipient, thus proving that the Court had not taken umbrage at his previous conduct in putting the Company to so much expense.

On the 7th day of October, 1844, a Committee was appointed to consider a revision of the fines or fees on admission, and the said Committee reported to the Court on 13th January, 1845, as follows:

That the Livery fine be reduced from £16 to £15 (the amount fixed by the Court of Aldermen in the year 1787), inclusive of all fees. That the sum payable for admission to the Freedom of the Company (including the fees) be reduced as follows, viz.:

The fine on admission to the Freedom of the Company by servitude from £3 10s. to £3.

The fine on admission to the Freedom of the Company by patrimony from £4 10s. to £3 10s., and

The fine on admission to the Freedom of the Company by redemption from £7 to £5 10s.

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The report and the foregoing recommendations were adopted by the Court.

The next matter of importance that strikes one's attention on perusal of the minutes is a notice as to the conversion of the South Sea Annuities at the Court held on the 9th day of January, 1854. The Clerk having drawn the attention of the Court to the provisions of the Act 16th and 17th Vict., cap. 23, for the redemption of the new South Sea Annuities and to the necessity of the receipt of the capital of £1,000 held under King's Gift, it was moved and resolved that Messrs. White, Dutton, Hancock and Harris should receive the capital of £1,000 and re-invest the amount in the purchase of 3 per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities in the name of the Company.

At the Court Meeting on the 6th day of February, 1854, the Clerk reported that, pursuant to the resolution of 9th January last and under the Power of Attorney sealed at the Court on the 16th January last, the capital sum of £1,000 late new South Sea Annuities belonging to King's Gift had been received on 20th January last and on the same day invested in the purchase of £1,084 18s. 4d. 3 per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities in the name of "The Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers," and he produced the usual stock receipt on such purchase. At the same Court Meeting the following letter from the Charity Commission appears on the minutes:

Charity Commission,

20, Duke Street, Westminster,

Sir,

4th February, 1854.

The Charity Commissioners for England and Wales consider it of much importance that the

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provisions of the 61st Section of The Charitable Trust Act, 1853, for insuring the keeping and publicity of the accounts of Charities should be generally known, and I am accordingly directed by them to forward to you the enclosed copy of the section referred to and to request the favour of your drawing the early attention of the Felt-makers Company to the provisions therein contained with regard to any Charities of which the Company may be Trustees.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY M. VANE,  
Secretary.

On 20th February, 1854, at a meeting of the Court, the Court took into consideration the letter from the Secretary of the Charity Commissioners, dated 4th February, 1854, and the Clerk having produced a return and account in conformity with the Act of Parliament referred to in the letter, such return and account were approved and signed and the Clerk was directed to deliver the same to the Clerk of the Peace for the City, which was done and duly reported to the next Court on the 3rd day of April, 1854.

Nothing further of much interest to the history of the Company appears on the minutes until Thursday, 7th day of October, 1858, being the day of annual election of officers, when for some reason not disclosed the following resolution was adopted :

It was moved by Mr. Le Beau and seconded by Mr. Kain that the Master, Wardens and Officers continue in their offices until other persons be duly elected. The following year, on 6th day of October, 1859, a similar proceeding was adopted :

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It was moved by Mr. Deputy Unwin, seconded by Mr. Powell, and unanimously resolved that the Master, Wardens and Officers continue in their offices until others be duly elected. Again on Thursday, 4th day of October, 1860, it was moved by Mr. Suter, seconded by Mr. Emery, that on account of the diminished number of this Court the Master and Wardens be continued in their offices for the ensuing year ; and the same course was taken on 3rd day of October, 1861.

At the Court held on 4th day of October, 1866, the Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Oaths Inquiry Commission enquiring what oaths, affirmations and declarations were required to be taken or made by persons upon or after becoming members of the Company, and he was directed to answer it.

Prominent men of the 19th Century who have been admitted to the Freedom and Livery of this Company, among others, appear the names of: Henry Cecil Raikes, M.P., 33, Gloucester Place, Hyde Park, on 10th January, 1870 ; John Gaspard Fanshawe, 2, Halken Street West, same date ; Robert Temple Frere, 143, Harley Street, same date ; The Rt. Hon. John Robert Mowbray, M.P., 47, Onslow Gardens, and Rowland Winn, Esq., M.P., 8, Queen's Gate, Kensington, both on 4th day of April, 1870 ; Charles Watkyn Williams Wynn, Esq., M.P., 2, Lower Berkeley Street, W., and Wm. Henry Smith, Esq., M.P., 1, Hyde Park Street, who subsequently became First Lord of the Admiralty—these gentlemen were admitted 2nd day of May, 1870 ; James Lowther, 59, Grosvenor Street, M.P., and Barrister at Law, was admitted 4th July, 1870 ; Thomas Hutchinson Tristram, D.C.L., 22, Manchester, Square, admitted 3rd July, 1871.

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At the opening of the Albert Hall, in 1871, the Company was represented by a Mr. Powell, when the Banner of the Company was exhibited.

On 24th July, 1871, Admiral Sir John Charles Dalrymple Hay, Bart., M.P., of Wigton, N.B., and St. George's Square, S.W., and Sir Michael Edward Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P., of Williamstrip Park, Fairford, Gloucestershire, were both admitted. On 5th day of October, 1871, Mr. Alderman Thomas White was elected on the Court, and subsequently became Lord Mayor of London.

On the 8th day of January, 1872, the Auditors reported that owing to the increase of the Livery and the financial position of the Company the members of the Court should again be paid for their attendance, and they further recommended that the meetings should be called for one o'clock instead of at twelve noon. These recommendations were adopted by the Court.

On 5th day of October, 1872, it was reported that the Court attended on Saturday, 28th day of September, on the occasion of the swearing in of the Sheriffs in their Livery Gowns.

The Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants were requested to attend in their carriages on Lord Mayor's Day in honour of Mr. Alderman White, the carriages of the Master and Wardens to be provided at the expense of the Company.

It was resolved that a banner bearing the arms of the Company be provided at the expense of the Company, to be carried in procession on Lord Mayor's Day, and that the Master and Clerk order it.

At a Court held on Monday, 28th October, 1872, the arrangements for Lord Mayor's Day were considered, when it was moved and resolved

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that the Court of the Feltmakers Company with their banners attend the procession on Lord Mayor's Day in honour of Mr. Alderman and Sheriff White, a member of the Court, and also that the Court breakfast and dine at the Albion Hotel on that day.

On Monday, 13th day of January, 1873, Henry Cecil Raikes, Esq., M.P., was elected a member of the Court.

At the Court held 7th July, 1873, the question of technical education was discussed and a Committee of the Court was appointed to consider the subject and report. The Committee reported to the Court in October, 1873, they had in the meantime consulted a member of an old-established firm of felt hat makers, who had made various methods and suggestions as to the offering of prizes for the best essays and particulars of mixing, felting, proofing, dyeing and finishing of felts. This report was referred to the Court to be held in April, 1874, but nothing further appears to have taken place then.

At the Court Meeting on 6th day of July, 1874, the Rt. Hon. George Ward Hunt, M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, 15, Prince of Wales Terrace; the Rt. Hon. Sir Stafford Henry Northcote, Bart., M.P., 86, Harley Street, W.; Henry Martin Fielden, 13, Palace Gate, Kensington; Alfred Erskine Hardy, 17, Grosvenor Crescent, were all admitted to the Freedom and Livery of the Company.

At this Court the Master, Mr. Jas. Harris, presented a very handsome flag to the Company and he was thanked by the Court.

At the Court Meeting on Thursday, 1st October, 1874, Mr. Wm. White moved that the report of the Committee on technical education be adopted,



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and it was decided that three prizes be offered for competition as follows :

1st prize—Fifteen guineas, together with a silver medal and the Freedom of the Company.

2nd prize—Five guineas, together with a silver medal and the Freedom of the Company.

3rd prize—A silver medal and the Freedom of the Company.

The judges appointed at a Court Meeting on 1st March, 1875, were Henry Ellwood, Esq., of Charlotte Street, Blackfriars, S. R. Carrington, Esq., of Stockport, and Wm. White, Esq., a member of the Court.

As only one competitor had entered at this date, it was decided to extend the time for sending in essays and specimens until 15th day of June next, and advertisements to that effect inserted in the "Hatter."

At the Court held on 5th day of July, 1875, the judges presented the following report :

Gentlemen,

In compliance with the request of the Court, we the judges appointed to examine and report upon the specimens and essays sent in, in competition for the prizes offered by the Company, met together on the 17th June, 1875, at 17, Salisbury Square, London, and examined the only package sent in. After very carefully inspecting the specimens sent, and reading the manuscript accompanying them, we come to the conclusion that there was not sufficient merit in any of the specimens or in the essay to warrant the Company in awarding any of the prizes offered by the advertisement, the specimens being below mediocrity and the description not entering sufficiently intelligibly into the process of the

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manufacture and therefore not complying with the conditions of the competition.

(Signed) WM. WHITE.  
S. R. CARRINGTON.  
HENRY ELLWOOD.

When it was resolved that the best thanks of the Court of this Company be presented to Messrs. White, Carrington and Ellwood for the trouble they have taken in acting as judges in the recent competition for the prizes offered by the Company.

It was also resolved that the above resolution be emblazoned on vellum and a copy presented to each of the above-named gentlemen.

It was also decided that the sum of five guineas be given to the competitor to reimburse him his expenses, and the Renter Warden was directed to pay it.

At the October Court, 1875, the custom hitherto in existence of the Renter Warden entering into a fidelity bond was abolished and an account opened at Robarts, Lubbock & Co.'s Bank in the name of the Feltmakers Company, to be operated on by the Renter Warden and Clerk for the time being.

At a Court Meeting held on Monday, 3rd July, 1876, the Clerk reported that Sir Thomas White had applied to the Court for its consent to his transfer to the Vintners Company, when it was resolved that such consent be granted on payment of the fee of 25 guineas. And at a Court Meeting held on Thursday, 29th day of August, 1876, the Master reported that, accompanied by Messrs. Dutton, Harris, Jarvis, Williams, Ower and the Clerk, he attended before the Court of Aldermen on Tuesday, 25th day of July, to give the assent of the Company to the transfer of Alderman Sir

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Thos. White from their Company to the Vintners Company.

At a Court Meeting held on Monday, 8th day of January, Mr. White, in pursuance of notice given at the last Court, moved that in future all members of the Company taking up their Freedom should sign a declaration that in the event of such member serving the office of Sheriff or Lord Mayor he should indemnify the Company against any expense it should be put to, which motion was carried.

At the meeting on 9th April, 1877, the Clerk reported the receipt of a notice from T. Erskine May, Clerk to the House of Commons, of the order of the 19th February, 1877, that there be laid before that House a return of all oaths and declarations made by the Master, Assistants, Freemen, Clerk or other officer on assumption of office in each of the eighty-nine companies mentioned in the second report of the Municipal Commissioners, 1837, when it was ordered that the matter be considered at some future Court. This appears to have been deferred until 7th of October, 1880, when a Committee consisting of the Master, the Wardens and three other members of the Court was appointed to deal with the matter, which was completed by the said Committee and costs paid 6th October, 1881.

From this date until 6th July, 1885, nothing of importance appears on the minutes, but at this date it was moved by Mr. J. G. Churchward, seconded by Mr. Past-Master Boyce and adopted by acclamation, that this Court heartily congratulates their Brother Liveryman the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Iddesleigh on the high distinction bestowed upon him on his elevation to the peerage of the United Kingdom, and most earnestly

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prays that his Lordship may long enjoy his illustrious rank and continue in the counsels of Her Majesty the Queen to promote, serve and safeguard those interests of our beloved country which, as Sir Stafford Northcote, he has for a series of years most effectively maintained with patriotic devotion and unblemished honour.

At the succeeding Court on October 1st, 1885, the Clerk reported having written to Lord Iddesleigh, and that a deputation of the Court, consisting of Past-Master Julian Robins acting for the Master, Chas. H. Townend, the Renter Warden, Robt. Weatherall, Middle Warden, J. G. Churchward, Junior Warden, and Mr. A. Peachey, the Clerk, had by invitation of his Lordship attended at No. 10, Downing Street, and there read and presented the address, to which the Earl replied, warmly thanking the Company for their expressions of esteem and approval.

At the deaths, in 1891 of Rt. Hon. Cecil Raikes, Postmaster-General, and the Rt. Hon. W. H. Smith, who had been First Lord of the Admiralty, in 1898, of Chas. Watkyn Williams Wynn, Recorder of Oswestry, all Liverymen of the Company, votes of sympathy with bereaved relatives were passed by the Court; as was done at the death of Lord Iddesleigh, Rt. Hon. John Mowbray, and other more or less distinguished members of the Livery.

The vicissitudes of the Company in former years has become a thing of the past, the Hatting Industry having practically ceased its interest and association, although a few of the prominent members of the trade still remain. During the writing of this history a large accession of new Liverymen has been brought about, mainly

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through the instrumentality of Major Richard Rigg, B.A., D.L., T.D., etc., and the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen agreed on the intercession of the Master, F. J. Asbury, Alderman and Sheriff Major Sir Louis A. Newton and the Court of Assistants to grant an increase in the number of the Livery to a maximum of two hundred. The phenomenal growth of the Company in numbers and finance in two years is unique in the History of any Livery Company of our Great City.

The chronological history is thus practically finished, but the following record of a Bill for the better regulation of the Company, adopted by the Corporation, is of great importance :

GLYN, *Mayor.*

*A COMMON COUNCIL holden in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London, on Wednesday, the 6th June, 1759.*

THIS Day the Committee having, pursuant to the Order of this Court, of the Twenty-ninth Day of March last, filled up the Blanks in the "Bill for regulating the Company of Feltmakers of London," did deliver the same so filled up into this Court, and the same was read a third Time, and several Amendments were made to the Bill ; and the said Bill as amended being read, a Motion was made and Question put, That the Bill as now Read and Amended do pass into a Law, and become the Act of this Court ? It was resolved in the Affirmative, and ordered accordingly. Which Act follows in these Words :

*A BILL for regulating the Company of FELTMAKERS, of LONDON.*

**Whereas** the Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the Art or Mistery of *Feltmakers of London,*

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are and have been an ancient Company or Fellowship, and long since incorporated, and have obtained a Royal Grant for Confirmation of their Privileges, whereby, and by their Original Constitution, the said Company or Fellowship ought to be and consist of all and every Person and Persons, using and exercising the Mystery or Trade of *Feltmakers*, within the City of *London* and the Liberties thereof. And ~~Whereas~~ the said Company or Fellowship is of late Years much diminished and decayed, and many Inconveniences have arisen and are likely to arise, not only to the said Company or Fellowship, but to the Public, by reason that many Persons now use and exercise the Trade or Business of *Feltmakers* without becoming free of the said Company. And ~~Whereas~~ it will be of great Benefit to the Public, and greatly tend to the proper Support and Maintenance of the said Company, that all and every Person and Persons hereafter using and exercising the said Trade or Business, within the said City and the Liberties thereof, should be free and become Members of the said Company of *Feltmakers*, by which Means such Persons will be under the Inspection and Controul, and become subject to the good Order and Government of the said Company, and to the good and proper Laws and Ordinances thereof, peculiarly adapted for the better ordering and carrying on the said Trade or Business; and Unskilfulness in the Exercise of the said Trade, and the Frauds and Deceits too frequently practised by many Persons carrying on the said Trade, will for the future be greatly remedied and prevented.

**Be it therefore Enacted,** Ordained and Established, By the Right Honourable the Lord-

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Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the said City of *London*, in this present Common-Council assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the Twenty-fourth Day of *June*, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty-nine, every Person not being already free of the City of *London*, or not having already taken upon himself the Freedom, or become free of any other Company or Fellowship of the said City, occupying, using, or exercising, or who shall occupy, use or exercise the Art, Trade or Mystery of a *Feltmaker*, within the City of *London*, or the Liberties thereof, shall take upon himself the Freedom, and become a Freeman of the said Company of *Feltmakers*; and upon Payment of the usual and customary Fine and Fees, shall be admitted by the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the said Company, to the Freedom of the said Company; and that no Person or Persons (other than such as are now free of some other Company or Fellowship of the said City) now using, or who shall hereafter use or exercise the said Art, Trade or Mystery of a *Feltmaker*, shall from and after the said Twenty-fourth Day of *June*, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty-nine, be admitted by the Chamberlain of this City for the Time being into the Freedom of the said City, in any other Company than that of the said Company of *Feltmakers*; any Law, Usage or Custom of the said City to the contrary notwithstanding.

**Provided always**, That all and every Person and Persons, not being already free of the said City, and who now are, or hereafter shall be intitled to the Freedom of any other Company within the said City, by Patrimony or Service, and ought in Pursuance of this Act to be made

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

free of the said Company of *Feltmakers*, shall be admitted into the Freedom of the said Company of *Feltmakers*, upon Payment of such and the like Fines and Fees (and none other) as are usually paid and payable upon the Admission of the child or Apprentice of a Freeman of the same Company whereof such Person or Persons is or shall be intitled to his or their Freedom.

And be it further Enacted, Ordained and Established, by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons (other than and except such Persons as are already Free of the said City, or have already taken up his or their Freedom, or become free of some or one of the Companies of the said City) do, or shall at any Time or Times from and after the said Twenty-fourth Day of *June*, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty-nine, use or exercise the Art, Trade or Mystery of a *Feltmaker*, within the said City or Liberties thereof, not being free of the said Company of *Feltmakers*, then every such Person (other than and except as aforesaid) shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Pounds for every such Offence, to be sued for and recovered by Action of Debt, Bill or Plaint, to be commenced in the Name of the Chamberlain of the said City of *London*, for the Time being, in His Majesty's Court of Lord-Mayor and Aldermen, to be holden in the outer Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*; and that the Chamberlain of the said City for the Time being, in all Suits to be prosecuted by virtue of this present Act against any Offender, shall recover his ordinary Costs of Suit, to be expended in and about the Prosecution of the same, in case he shall recover the Forfeiture, or Penalty sued for; and in case the said Chamberlain shall be non-suited, or discontinue



## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

the said Action, or a Verdict or Judgment shall be given against the said Chamberlain in any such Action to be brought by virtue of this Act, then the Party against whom such Action shall have been brought or sued, shall recover the Costs of such Non-suit, Discontinuance, Verdict or Judgment; and the said Chamberlain shall be fully indemnified by the said Master and Wardens, against all Costs, Charges, Damages and Expences that may happen or arise for or on Account of any Suit or Action, to be commenced by virtue of this Act.

And be it further Enacted and Ordained, by the Authority aforesaid, That all Penalties and Forfeitures to be had and recovered by Virtue of this Act (the Charges of the Suit for the Recovery thereof being first deducted) shall be divided into two equal Parts, the one Moiety thereof shall be paid to the Treasurer of the *London* Workhouse for the Time being, to be applied towards the Maintenance of the Poor there, and the other Moiety to him or them who shall prosecute for the same.

## COURT OF ALDERMEN.

20th March, 1787.

The humble Petition of the Master Wardens and Assistants of the Company of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers was this day presented unto this Court and read in these Words:

To the Right Honorable the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen of the City of London.

The humble Petition of the Master Wardens and Assistants of the Company of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London.

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

### SHEWETH

That on the 23rd day of October 1733 a Petition of the Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company of Feltmakers was presented to this Honorable Court which after reciting several parts of the Charters of the said Company prayed they might be constituted a Livery Company of this City under such regulations and restrictions as to this Honorable Court should seem meet.

That this Honorable Court did on the same day refer the said Petition to a Committee of the said Court who were appointed to examine the allegations thereof and report their opinion thereon.

That on the thirteenth day of November following the said Committee did report that it was their opinion the prayer of the said Petition should be complied with and this Honorable Court was pleased to approve and confirm the said Report, and the said Company of the Art or Mistery of Feltmakers of London was then constituted and appointed one of the Livery Companies of this City accordingly which was limited to the number of Sixty.

That your Petitioners have a considerable number of very respectable Freemen of their said Company who are of the Trade of their said Art or Mistery and who are prohibited by an Act of the Court of Common Council of this City from being admitted into any other Company.

That by an Act of Parliament passed in the seventeenth year of the Reign of his present Majesty (which repeals all former Acts in restraint of their said Trade and gives liberty to any person to carry on the same and to take any number of

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

Apprentices) your Petitioners have had the number of their Freemen much encreased beyond the number of preceding Years and have frequent Applications from such Freemen to be admitted on the Livery of their said Company.

That your Petitioners have lately inspected the List of their Livery and are apprehensive that the same is encreased beyond the said number of Sixty allowed by the Order of this Honorable Court: Notwithstanding which your Petitioners have always found such list insufficient in number to select proper persons to fill the several offices of this Company.

That your Petitioners on finding such increase and for the reasons aforesaid did immediately resolve to petition this Honorable Court humbly praying an increase of their said Livery.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that this Honorable Court will be pleased to take the premises into consideration and grant an increase to the Number of the Livery of their said Company in such manner and for the Honour and Dignity of this City as this Honorable Court shall think proper.

Signed by Order of the said Company.

[L.S.]

JAS. BLISS, Clerk.

WHEREUPON it is referred to all the Members of this Court or any three of them to examine the Allegations thereof and report their opinion to this Court; and it is an instruction to the said Committee to enjoin the said Company to return annually to the Town Clerk's Office a List of their Livery.

Such then is the history as far as it is possible to gather from the recorded proceedings of the

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

Company from its existing minute books, and the only thing remaining to record is list of Masters and Clerks. The present Court of Assistants are as follows :

Master—F. J. Asbury, Esq., F.S.A.A.

Upper Warden—Major Richd. Rigg, B.A., D.L.,  
J.P., T.D., &c.

Renter Warden—W. R. Patterson, Esq.

Middle Warden—Captain W. H. Carrick.

Fourth Warden—J. J. Edwards, Esq.

### Assistants.

\*Alfred Peachey, Esq., Clerk.

\*W. J. Meaden, Esq.

\*Alderman R. W. Dibdin.

\*Major J. H. Hawkins, V.D.

\*J. C. Wells, Esq.

\*T. W. Bowler, Esq.

\*Chas. Griffin, Esq.

\*W. D. Cronin, Esq., F.R.G.S.

\*Stephen Fortescue, Esq.

\*J. Wm. Stevens, Esq., F.S.I.

\*W. H. Stevens, Esq.

\*W. G. Churcher, Esq.

\*W. L. Davies, Esq.

\*A. Moore, Esq.

\*G. W. Capel, Esq.

\*Alderman Sir Louis A. Newton.

\*H. A. Sheppard, Esq.

\*J. Aspinall Boardman, Esq.

E. V. Huxtable, Esq.

Major H. F. Kingdon.

F. Dewsbury, Esq., C.C.

\* Past Masters.

From the commencement of the Company, under its Charter from His Majesty King Charles the Second, a careful inspection reveals the fact that until 1733 no action was taken to obtain

# WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

from the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen permission to be established as a Livery. The following appear to have been Masters and Clerks respectively, the election always taking place on the first Thursday in October of each year.

	Master.	Clerk.
1675-6	Mr. Wilkinson	Mr. Sam. Draper.
1676-7	" Thos. Tharfharn	do.
1677-8	" Bowdon.	do.
1678-9	" Sam. Berryman.	do.
1679-80	" Thos. Fisher.	do.
1680-1	" Sam. Adlard.	Mr. J. Brandreth.
1681-2	" John Howes	do.

The Minute Book from this date until 1691 appears to have been lost.

	Master.	Clerk.
1691-2	Mr. Wm. Frost.	Mr. Tarleton.
1692-3	" Jacob Harvey.	—
1693-4	" Jas. Jones.	—
1694-5	" Henry Hatfield.	—
1695-6	" John Langley.	—
1696-7	" Dan. Hoston.	—
1697-8	" Mr. Saml. Hall.	Mr. Jas. Evetts.

Mr. Francis Richards was elected Master, but declined to serve, paid fine of £25 and the Court elected Mr. Samuel Hall.

	Master.	Clerk.
1698-9	Mr. Edward White.	—
1699-1700	Mr. Wm. Wilkin.	—
1700-1	Mr. Benjn. Tarrant.	—
1701-2	" Benj. Tarrant.	—
1702-3	" Thos. Phipps.	—
1703-4	" Francis Richards.	—

On the 5th day of October, 1704, Mr. Wm. Hoston was elected Master, but refused to take the Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Anne

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

and to the Company, but as a Quaker offered to affirm; the Court of Assistants then discussed if this should be allowed, and declined. Mr. Hoston refused to pay the fine, saying "he would go to prison first"; he then withdrew from the Court and in his absence the Assistants dismissed him from the Court. Mr. Hoston was then called in and acquainted with the decision; he thanked the Court and retired. The Court then proceeded to elect another person and the choice fell on Mr. John Harris.

	Master.	Clerk.
1704-5	Mr. John Harris.	—
1705-6	" Robt. Jones.	—
1706-7	" Robt. Soyres.	—
1707-8	" Geo. Vibart.	—
1708-9	" John Harrison.	—

The Minute Book from this year until 1726 appears to be lost, and the continuation is obtained from the succeeding book that for—

	Master.	Clerk.
1726-7	Mr. John Ward.	—
1727-8	" Josh. Harrison.	—
1728-9	" Thos. Ryde.	—
1729-30	" Edward Richardson.	—
1730-1	" Anthony Mead.	—
1731-2	" Hugh Knowling.	—
1732-3	" Richd. Crafton, Junr.	—
1733-4	" Henry Griffith.	—
1734-5	" Richd. Turner.	—
1735-6	" Jas. Whitehead.	—
1736-7	" Melling.	—
1737-8	" Wm. Norvilt.	—
1738-9	" Robt. Rossiter.	—
1739-40	" Thos. Newby.	—
1740-1	" Wm. Treherne.	—
1741-2	" Robt. Hall.	—

# WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

	Master.	Clerk.
1742-3	Mr. Thos. Drewett.	—
1743-4	" Hy. Taylor.	—
1744-5	" Goram.	Mr. John Butler.
1745-6	" Francis Roberts.	—
1746-7	" Thos. Drewett.	—

At this election Mr. Bagnor was elected Master, but paid the fine and did not serve ; was excused by the Court. Mr. Treadgett being next in rotation had not served three times as a Warden as then required by the Charter and bye-laws, and Mr. Thos. Drewett was elected for second time.

	Master.	Clerk.
1747-8	Mr. Robt. Treadgett.	—
1748-9	" Hugh Knowlings.	—
1749-50	" John Hall.	—
1750-1	" John Juby.	—

At this date the year closed on March 25th. March 26th became the first of the new year, which by Act of Parliament closed on December 31st, since which time the years have been from January 1st to December 31st, as at present.

	Master.	Clerk.
1752-3	Mr. Henry Butler. (of Tooley Street)	Mr. John Butler.
1753-4	" Henry Butler. (of Barnaby Street)	do.
1754-5	" Philip Cox.	do.
	Mr. Butler, Clerk, died Dec., 1755.	
1755-6	" Dinning.	Mr. Jas. Gunter.
	Elected Jan. 7th, 1756.	
1756-7	" Lawford.	Mr. Jas. Gunter.
1757-8	" George Warren.	do.
1758-9	" James Rossiter.	do.
1759-60	" Richard Crafton.	do.
1760-1	" Thomas Cooper.	do.
1761-2	" George Jackson.	do.

# WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

	Master.	Clerk.
1762-3	Mr. Martin Hurdis.	Mr. Jas. Gunter.
1763-4	" Vincent Trehearne.	do.
1764-5	" Thomas Smith.	do.
1765-6	" Philip Cox.	do.
1766-7	" Daniel Alexander.	do.
1767-8	" Richard Crafton.	do.
1768-9	" Emmett.	do.
1769-70	" Robert Arnold.	do.
1770-1	" Joseph Sibley.	do.
1771-2	" William Dare.	do.
1772-3	" Henry Griffith.	do.
1773-4	" Thos. Cox.	do.
1774-5	" Hayward.	do.
1775-6	" Hensley.	do.
1776-7	" John Hall.	do.
1777-8	" Henry Butler, Junr.	do.
1778-9	" James Bloy.	Mr. G. Temnott.
1779-80	" George Jackson, Junr.	do.
1780-1	" John Bazely.	Mr. James Bliss.
1781-2	" Josiah Baughan	do.
1782-3	" Melchior H. Wagner.	do.
1783-4	" Daniel Alexander.	do.
1784-5	" John J. Lindner.	do.
1785-6	" Jeremiah Snow.	do.
1786-7	" H. North.	do.
1787-8	" Richard Burton.	do.
1788-9	" Joseph Sibley.	do.
1789-90	" Richard Mann.	do.
1790-91	" Miller Southgate.	do.
1791-2	" John Blandy.	do.
1792-3	" Miller Christy.	do.
1793-4	" Thomas Wontner.	do.
1794-5	" John Bracewell.	Mr. John Hall.
1795-6	" Joseph Norville.	do.
1796-7	" Jackson.	do.
1797-8	" Wagner.	do.



# WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

	Master.	Clerk.
1798-9	Mr. Peter Smith.	Mr. John Hall.
1799-1800	Mr. John Huff.	do.
1800-1	Mr. William Tremain.	do.
1801-2	" William Darnell.	do.
1802-3	" John Dring.	do.
1803-4	" Robert Roberts.	do.
1804-5	" Philip Thompson.	do.
1805-6	" William Shearman.	do.
1806-7	" William Lewthwaite.	do.
1807-8	" Thomas Bliss.	do.
1808-9	" Daniel Alexander.	do.
1809-10	" Richard Guyer.	do.
1810-11	" John Oakey.	do.
1811-12	" Joseph Barton.	do.
1812-3	" William Cox	do.
1813-4	" James Bell.	do.
1814-5	Samuel Darnell.	Mr. Humphreys.
1815-6	" William Norville.	do.
1816-7	Chas. Humphreys.	—
1817-8	Robert Gould.	Mr. Chas. Humphreys.
1818-9	Thos. Wontner, Junr.	do.
1819-20	Jos. Barton, Junr.	do.
1820-1	Ed. Cook Bourne.	do.
1821-2	Joseph Jones.	do.
1822-3	William Gill.	do.
1823-4	Hall.	do.
1824-5	Hall, Junr.	do.
1825-6	John Christy.	do.
1826-7	Richard Wilson.	do.
1827-8	James Peachey.	do.
1828-9	Nathaniel Dando.	do.
1829-30	Abraham Walker.	do.
1830-1	Wontner, Senr.	Mr. Jas. Peachey.
1831-2	Samuel Unwin.	do.
1832-3	William White.	do.
1833-4	William Mayhew.	do.

# WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

	Master.	Clerk.
1834-5	Mr. Thomas Southby.	Mr. Jas. Peachey.
1835-6	" Thos. Deeble Dutton	do.
1836-7	" Wm. Huddard Dutton.	do.
1837-8	" Joseph Barton.	do.
1838-9	" Richard Suter.	do.
1839-40	" Samuel Darnell.	do.
1840-1	" Ed. Cook Bourne.	do.
1841-2	" William Gould.	do.
1842-3	" Richard Wilson.	do.
1843-4	" Thos. Deeble Dutton.	do.
1844-5	" Littleton T. Powis.	do.
1845-6	" Samuel Darnell.	do.
1846-7	" William White, Junr.	do.
1847-8	" Richard Williams.	do.
1848-9	" William Emery.	do.
1849-50	" Samuel Game.	do.
1850-1	" James Harris.	do.
1851-2	" John Hancock.	do.
1852-3	" William Baugh.	do.
1853-4	" George J. Ovington.	do.
1854-5	" William Jarvis.	do.
1855-6	" Timothy E. Le Beau.	do.
1856-7	" Thomas Powell.	do.
1857-8	" Wm. Huddard Dutton.	do.

On 7th October, 1858, it was moved by Mr. Le Beau and seconded by Mr. Kain that the Master, Wardens and Officers continue in their offices until other persons be duly elected.

	Master.	Clerk.
1858-9	Mr. W. Huddard Dutton.	Mr. J. Peachey.
1859-60	do.	do.
1860-1	do.	do.
1861-2	do.	do.
1862-3	do.	do.
1863-4	Mr. William White.	do.
1864-5	do.	do. and

Mr. Alfred Peachey.

# WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

	Master.	Clerk.
1865-6	Mr. John Hancock.	Mr. Alfred Peachey.
1866-7	" Wm. Baugh	do.
1867-8	" William Jarvis.	do.
1868-9	" Richard H. Williams	do.
1869-70	" John Ower.	do.
1870-1	" Thomas Powell.	do.
1871-2	" James Harris.	do.
1872-3	" Alfred Peachey.	do.
1873-4	" Thomas R. Barlow.	do.
1874-5	" Robert John Boyce.	do.
1875-6	" Thos. Rogers Eames.	do.
1876-7	" Charles R. Turner.	do.
1877-8	" Joseph Nicholson.	do.
1878-9	" John Steer Hincks.	do.
1879-80	" James Geo. Burden.	do.
1880-1	" Geo. Henry Sawtell.	do.
1881-2	" William G. Harrison.	do.
1882-3	" Evan Hare.	do.
1883-4	" Julian Robins.	do.
1884-5	" John Wm. Jarvis.	do.
1885-6	" Charles Deacon.	do.
1886-7	" Charles H. Townend.	do.
1887-8	" Robert Wetherell.	do.
1888-9	" Jos. G. Churchward.	do.
1889-90	" William J. Meaden.	do.
1890-1	" Edmund A. Beckett.	do.
1891-2	" Francis A. Cartmel.	do.
1892-3	" Robert W. Dibdin.	do.
1893-4	" J. R. Whitmore Luck.	do.
1894-5	" William H. Hope.	do.
1895-6	Capt. J. Harford Hawkins.	do.
1896-7	Mr. Richard A. Hunt.	do.
1897-8	Major Anthony Runacres.	do.
1898-9	Mr. F. Garland Burmester.	do.
1899-1900	Mr. John Charles Wells.	do.
1900-1	Mr. Thomas W. Bowler.	do.

# WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

	Master.	Clerk.
1901-2	Mr. Charles Griffin.	Mr. A. Peachey.
1902-3	„ Walter D. Cronin.	do.
1903-4	„ Stephen Fortescue.	do.
1904-5	„ John Wm. Stevens.	do.
1905-6	„ Wm. Henry Stevens.	do.
1906-7	Sir Wm. W. Karslake, K.C.	do.
1907-8	Mr. Charles J. Price.	do.
1908-9	„ W. Graham Churcher.	do.
1909-10	„ William Lewis Davies.	do.
1910-11	„ Alfred Moore.	do.
1911-2	„ George Wm. Capel.	do.
1912-3	Major Louis A. Newton, C.C.	do.
1913-4	Mr. Horatio A. Sheppard.	do.
1914-5	„ J. Aspinall Boardman.	do.
1915-6	do.	do.
1916-7	„ F. J. Asbury, F.S.A.A.	do.

While this brief history was being compiled a great influx of new members took place of many gentlemen of social standing and prominent positions, among them being Alderman Forster Todd, the Lord Mayor of York, Richard Christopher Sennett, Esq., the senior partner in the well-known firm of Messrs. Sennett Bros., one of the largest and best known firms of hatters' fur producers, thus closely identifying practical felt making with the Feltmakers Company, moreover, the factory of Messrs. Sennett Bros. is situate in the heart of the hat making industry, viz., in Holland Street, Southwark.

It may be interesting to note that among the existing members of the Company the hat making industry is still well represented by Captain Carrick of Carlisle, Messrs. C. Griffin and Thos. Bowler of Messrs. Victor Jay & Co., London, Mr. Davies the manager and Mr. Soldi one of

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FELTMAKERS

the directors of Messrs. Lincoln & Bennett, while the compiler of this book was himself for many years a hat manufacturer in the Parish of Christ Church, Blackfriars, S.E.

The income of the Company that is distributed in charity comprises the annual rental of Sullens Farm, a Copyhold Estate in Corbetstye, Upminster, Essex; the net rent varies from year to year according to the balance that remains after the outgoings for upkeep have been deducted, and is divided—as to the first class of recipients who are Liverymen of the Company and have carried on the business of hatmaking in London; as to the second class, those who have been practical hatters in London and have fallen into adverse circumstances, and are well recommended; and the third class, those who are Freemen of the Company. This is known as Macham's Charity, and is distributed at the Court Meeting every Plough Monday.

The other Charity is known as King's Gift. This is the yearly interest, amounting to £42, distributed as follows: £5 each yearly to six poor widows of master feltmakers on the 30th day of January in every year, and £2 each to six poor masters on the first Monday in February of each year. The money originally left by Thomas King was £1,000 New South Sea Annuities, and is now represented by £1,489 Consols.

The accompanying illustrations represent:

A feltmaker's battery.

A bowing garrett with a feltmaker at work.

Copies of photos. of the house and lands known as Sullens Farm, and a plan of the land.



A Feltmaker's Battery.

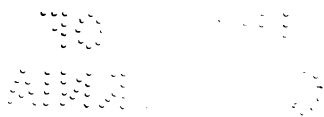
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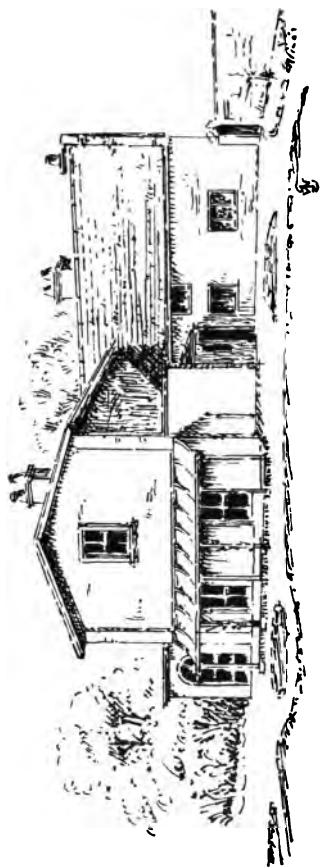


A Bowing Garrett with a Feltmaker at work.

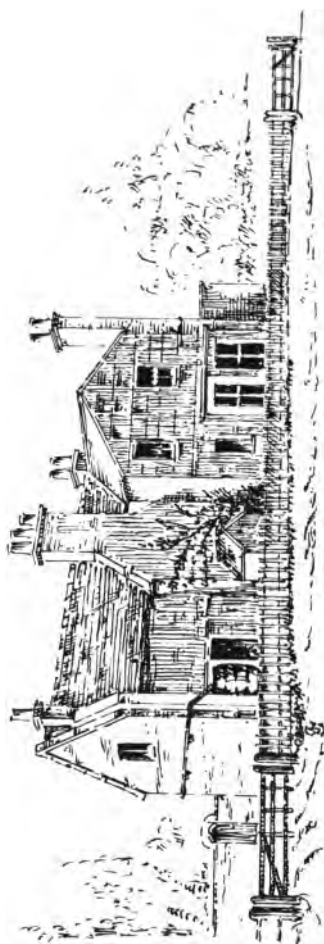








Farmhouse, 1842. Front View.



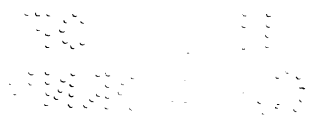
Farmhouse, 1842. Back View.

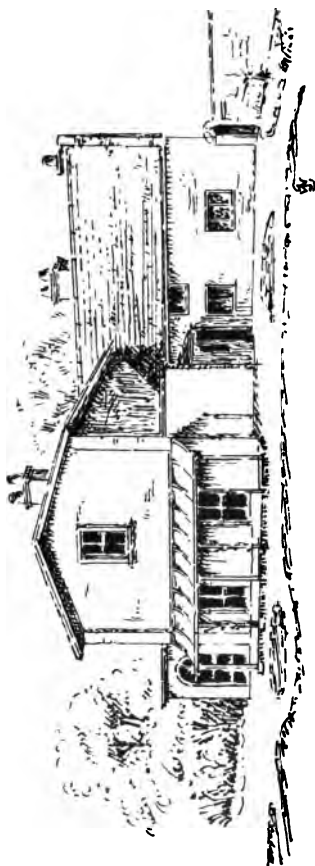




A Bowing Garrett with a Feltmaker at work.

THE  
FELT  
MAKING  
PROCESS





Farmhouse, 1842. Front View.

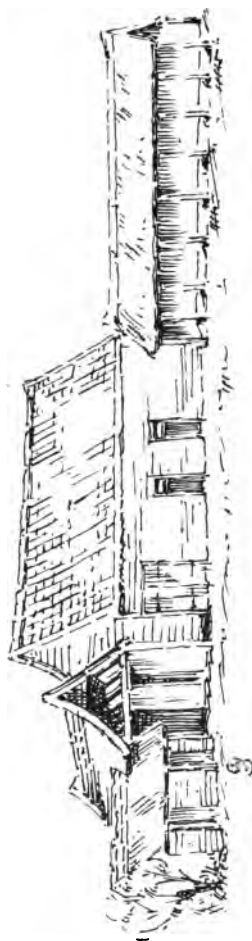


Farmhouse, 1842. Back View.

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View of Old Barn, &c., 1842.



View of Stable, &c., 1842.

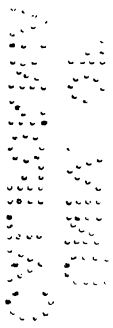
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N.E. View of Farmhouse, 1917.



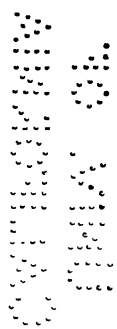


Farmhouse, 1917. Back View.





Front View of Farmhouse from Orchard, 1917.





Back View of Farmhouse and Outbuildings, 1917.





1



View of Stock Yard, Barn, &c.

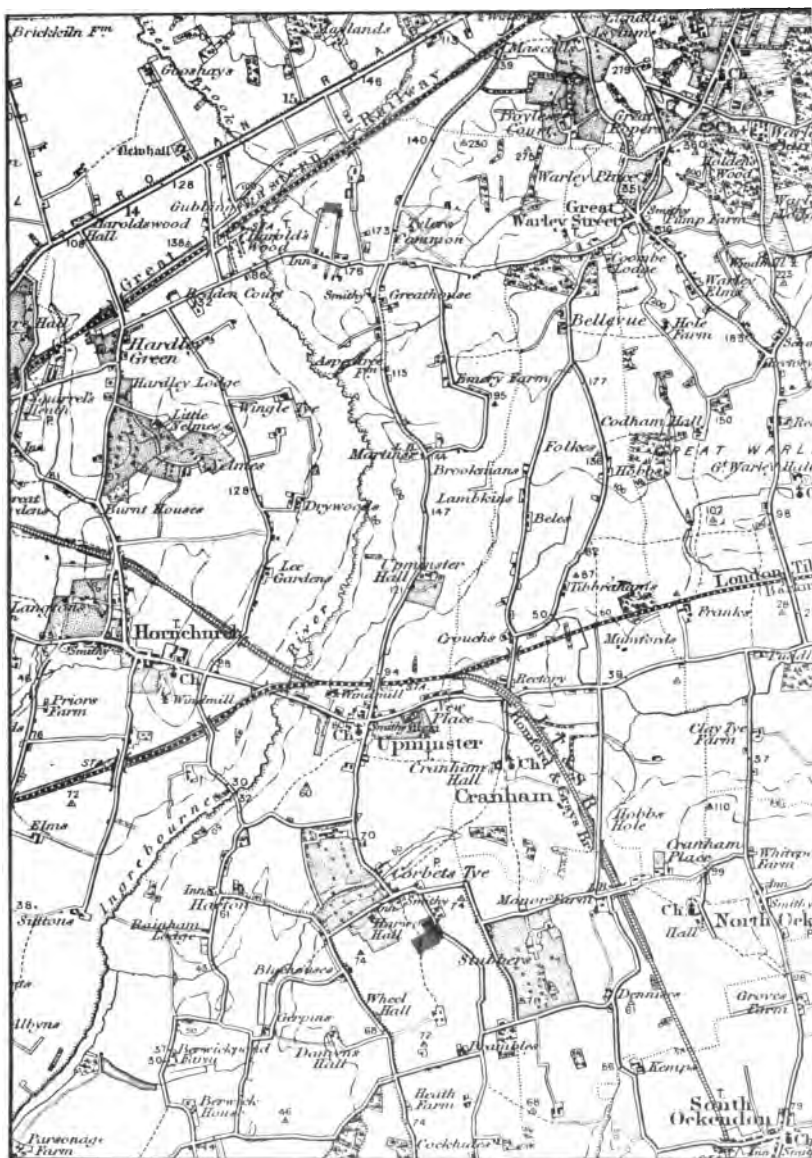




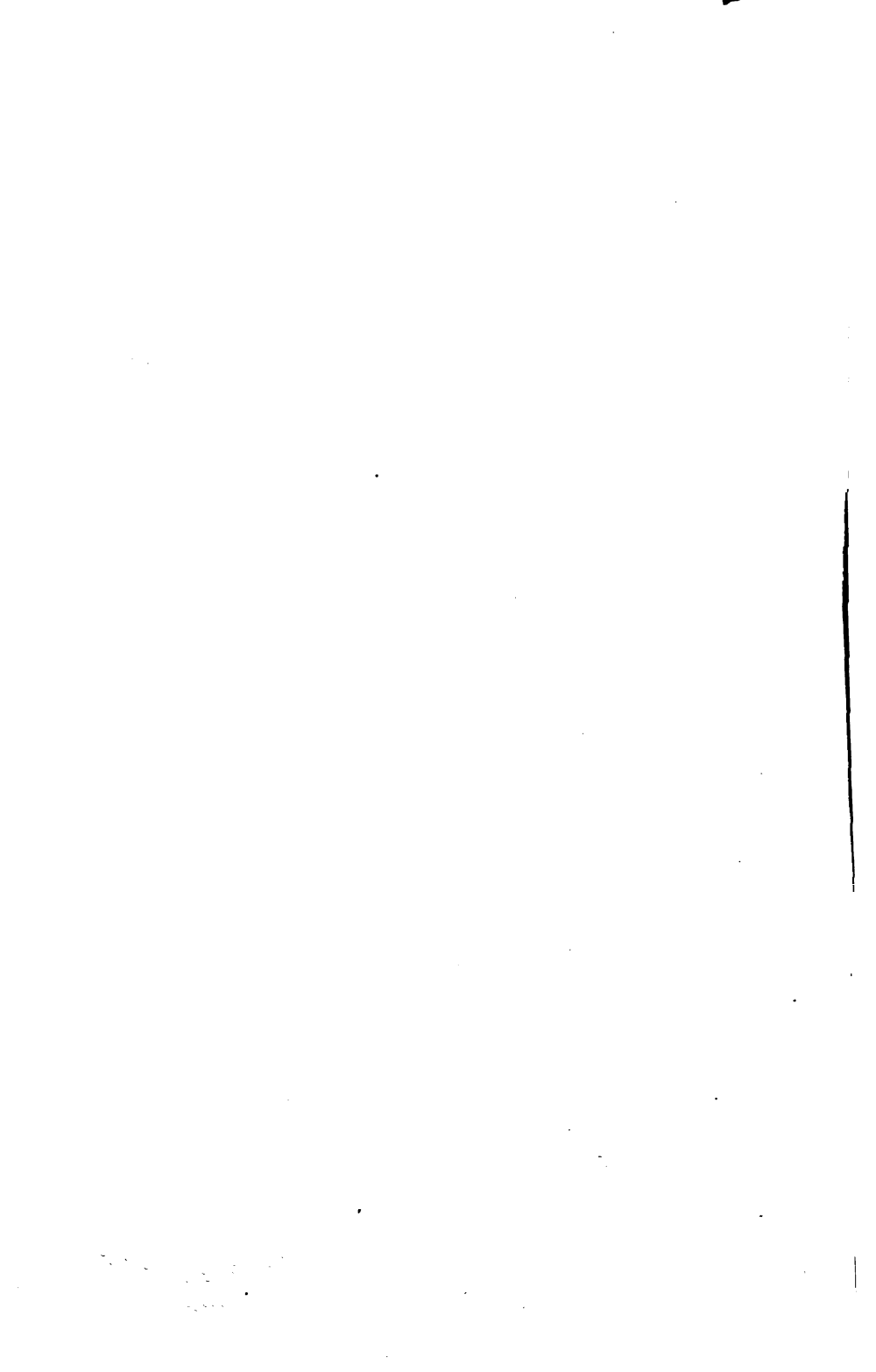
S.W. View of Farmhouse and Outbuildings.

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Key Plan showing position of the Company's Property.



















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